

Indexed 8/08

# Columbia River Gillnetter

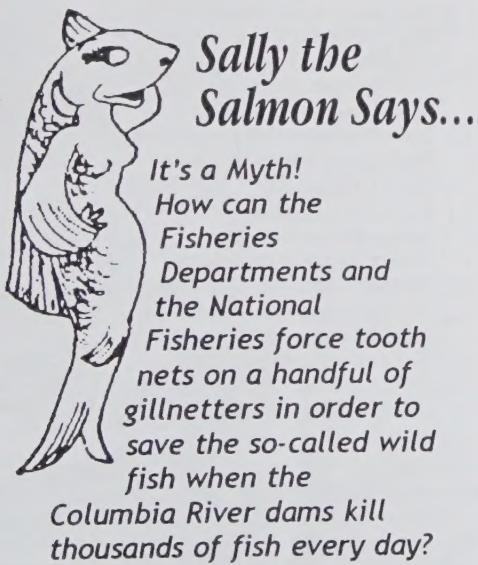
Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union

Fall 2001 / Vol. 32, No. 2



Picking up gillnet on Desdemona Sands just inside the Columbia River Entrance in 1878

## **2001 SEES STRONGEST SALMON RUNS SINCE 1938 BUT NO PRICE OR MARKET TO SELL THEM!** story on page 9



### **Coho stripped of 'threatened' status**

*Federal protection of wild salmon in Oregon's coastal rivers will be lifted immediately*

In a decision that could affect the fate of salmon throughout the American West, a federal judge in Eugene has ordered that Oregon coastal coho salmon no longer be declared threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Stunned officials of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agency in charge of salmon, said Thursday they would immediately revoke federal protection for wild coho in dozens of coastal rivers in

*continues on page 8*

**Ruling says hatchery, native same:  
More fish may lose protection**

A federal court ruling earlier this month stripping Oregon coastal coho salmon of protected status may be interpreted by other courts to apply to seven additional protected salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia River Basin, according to a memo prepared by legal staff of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

The ruling Sept. 10 by U.S. District Judge Michael R. Hogan in Eugene concerned only the coastal coho salmon.

*continues on page 3*



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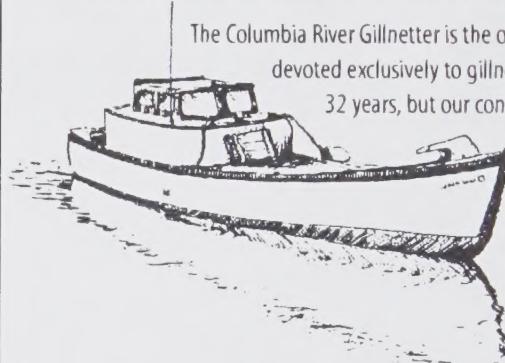
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## Foreword

This paper is being published for the express purpose of keeping the public and the fishermen informed of the **true facts** and happenings in regard to the Columbia River Fishing Industry and all people connected with it. The advertisements which appear within make it financially possible to publish this paper and we hope you will in return patronize and thank the business people who contributed to this cause. Anyone who wishes to contribute articles, pictures stories, or ads, please contact the editor at P. O. Box 511, Astoria, OR 97103 or call (503) 325-2507

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The Columbia River Gillnetter is the only remaining publication on the west coast devoted exclusively to gillnetting. We have been making a difference for 32 years, but our continued existence is threatened by increasing production and mailing costs. Now more than ever, we need a voice to represent our side of the issue, and the Gillnetter is our only contact with fishermen, lawmakers and the general public.

If you would like to help, send donations to  
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*The following individuals have made a cash contribution to the Columbia River Gillnetter Publication, which will be used to continue the publication and mailing of this free informational newsletter.  
We thank them for their support!*

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## From The Editor

I sure hope you enjoy reading the selection of articles in this issue of the Gillnetter Publication as much as I have enjoyed putting them together for you. I wanted to offer a very special thank-you to all of those who have made donations and supported our efforts by advertising in this publication and those who have submitted articles to be published. We couldn't do this work without your help. The stories in this issue speak for themselves. A lot is changing and a lot more needs to change as a result of these new findings about our "wild" salmon. Gillnetters should become involved if they want to see improvements of the fishery conditions on the Columbia, there will be plenty of opportunities in the coming months to have your voice heard at meetings about the changes being made on the River.

On the lighter side, I found a cartoon that made me laugh a lot, I put it at the bottom of this column. Enjoy.

—Don Riswick



### If you move please call in your new address

While we strive to keep in contact with our readers, and continue to send out the Columbia River Gillnetter publication at no cost to our readers, over the last year we have seen a significant increase in our mailing costs associated with returned and undeliverable issues. The typical cost associated with returned issues is about \$2.50-3.50, and when we are dealing with several hundred of these each issue, it adds up quickly. In recent years, the US postal service has re-organized the rural route addresses, and we have had to spend many hours updating our mailing list with these new addresses.

You can help us out by letting us know when you move, so we can continue your uninterrupted subscription to this publication. It's easy too, just call me, Don Riswick, at 503-325-2507, and I will update our list immediately. I would also be more than happy to discuss any aspects of our publication with you! In an era of 5 cents a minute calls, a ten minute call is about 50 cents.

### Attention Gillnetters!

This paper was started for your benefit 32 years ago to keep you informed and help fight the battles for you. As we are non-profit, we depend on advertising and donations to keep publishing and mailing this newsletter. Many of you have donated generously over the years, but others haven't. If you like the work we do, I urge you to please send a small donation to help us continue. Think about it. Thank you.

### We are still thinking about the Internet...

In recent years, the internet has had a large impact on our lives, even us old-timers are having to learn about computers and email. I have been toying with the idea of putting up a web site for the Columbia River Gillnetter so that issues can be viewed online, and so that we can send/receive email, and allow people to post messages and comments about the issues we care about. I would like to hear from you; let me know if you are using computers too, and if this would be something people would use and benefit from. My phone number is listed above. Our Email address is ColumbiaGillnetter@mac.com

—Don Riswick, Editor

### Hatchery, Native: Same

That ruling suggested that because hatchery coho salmon and wild stocks of that fish cannot be distinguished genetically, they should not be treated as two separate species by the National Marine Fisheries Service. That agency considered wild and hatchery fish separately while applying the Endangered Species Act.

Hogan asked the service to reconsider its policy and immediately stripped coastal coho salmon of federal protected status. Governor John Kitzhaber has asked the federal government to appeal the ruling.

If applied to other types of fish, the ruling would potentially reverse a massive salmon recovery effort throughout the Columbia Basin, a wildlife stewardship that has in the past two decades cost more than \$5

continues from page 1

billion and governed river use for power generation and recreation throughout the region.

And although a wider legal analysis has not been completed, federal officials say the impact of the ruling could extend far beyond the Columbia Basin.

Brian Gorman, a spokesman for the fisheries service, said Wednesday that 20 of 26 West Coast stocks of salmon and steelhead appear to be vulnerable under Hogan's ruling.

"This has vast legal, biological, social and political implications," Gorman said. "This could be a regulatory nightmare."

Gorman said the ruling could force the fisheries service to re-examine every listing decision it has made over the past decade.

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## Gillnetters seek fishing solution

Gillnetters are never known to sit idly by: we are seeking a solution.

We've scheduled meetings with invitations to the media, the governor's office and offices of federal legislators in an attempt to establish protective measures against Chile's farmed salmon.

Seafood managers in Chile recently announced that they would attempt to preserve their current markets by stepping up efforts to export salmon to non-traditional markets such as bait, fish meal and fish oil.

U.S. imports of fresh and frozen Chilean salmon fillets, which topped 80 million pounds in August, were up more than 25 million pounds through the first half of 2001, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. And with Pacific wild salmon runs expected to shrink in coming years, Chile is poised to be an ever-increasing major supplier.

"The farmed fish is tearing holes in our



**Skinny dippin' in Icy Straits Alaska in 1919**

(this post-card was in one of my dad's old photo albums -Don)

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## Position paper on equitable allocation of public resources for Columbia River Salmon

Prepared by the C.R.F.P.U. with the assistance of the Law Office of Michael Autio, LLC, of Astoria, Oregon

The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union (CRFPU), representing its membership and all Columbia River gillnet fishermen, issues the following statement in relation to just compensation for lost fishing time during the recent spring Chinook salmon season.

The CRFPU was founded in 1884 and has represented the interests of commercial gillnet a fisherman and cannery workers in numerous fishing seasons, allocations and wage negotiations over the past 117 years. Throughout its history, the organization has emphasized stewardship of a the salmon resource, as evidenced by its motto: "maximum harvest consistent with sustained yield."

### 2001 SPRING CHINOOK SEASON

By all accounts, the current Spring Chinook run on the Columbia River has been one of the best a in history. Prior to the season, fisheries agencies predicted that the run would approach 365,000 salmon, which would be the largest run since record keeping began with the completion of Bonneville Dam in 1938. The actual fish count exceeded those expectations and approached an incredible 400,000 fish. For comparative purposes, the 2001 run is over six times the ten-year average Spring Chinook run.

Prior to this incredible run, the commercial fishery had been assured that it would be allowed to share in the benefit of the strong run, as would the recreational and tribal users. Since 1977, the commercial gillnet fishery for spring Chinook has been reduced to the point of irrelevance and in several years, totally eliminated, by increasing harvest restrictions and declining fish runs.

Sadly, it appears that the promises made for this season have been broken and the non-tribal commercial fishery has once again been left on the shore. While tribal and recreational user groups were given expanded seasons and catch limits to take advantage of the record salmon run, the traditional, non-tribal commercial fishery has been virtually eliminated.

Before the season, tribal fisheries were originally allocated an expected catch of about 42,000-45,000, recreational users about 13,000-15,000 fish and non-tribal commercial fisheries about 5,000-6,000 fish. As the season progressed, the Columbia River Compact

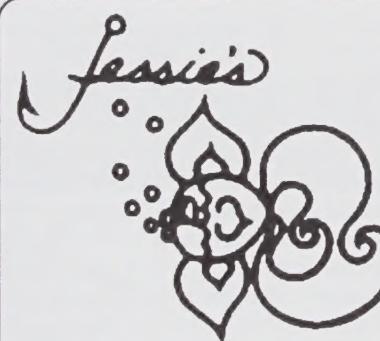
met several times and, in view of the extraordinary run, extended both the tribal and recreational fisheries. As a result, the total tribal catch now may exceed 60,000 and the recreational catch has exceeded 22,000 fish on the Columbia River main stem (and thousands more on the Willamette and upper Columbia River tributaries). Despite requests from the commercial fisheries to expand their harvest as well, the total catch has not significantly exceeded the original 6,000 prediction, and most of those fish were Willamette stock or caught in select area fisheries or experimental tooth net fisheries. In effect, the traditional gillnet fishery on the main stem of the Columbia River was once again restricted to the point of no consequence, despite this phenomenal fish run!

There is questionable biological support for this restriction of the commercial fishery under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the only apparent explanation is a policy bias that favors certain user groups over others. Such treatment is not only unfair, it is likely illegal.

### EQUITY IN ALLOCATION OF SALMON RESOURCES

The Columbia River and the salmon that inhabit it are public resources, not only for the citizens of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, but for all U.S. citizens whose tax dollars help to pay for the raising of these salmon and for other fish and wildlife programs.

The Columbia River Compact (consisting of Oregon and Washington fish and wildlife agencies) is charged by congressional and statutory authority to adopt seasons and rules for Columbia River commercial fisheries. Part of the Compact's written mission "is an inherent responsibility of the Compact to address the allocation of limited resources among users." The glaring omission in the Compact's purpose is the requirement that the allocation among users be equitable and, unfortunately, it appears that the Compact is willing to sacrifice the interests of the non-tribal commercial fishermen while other user groups are allowed to share in the salmon resource. The only plausible explanation for such treatment is apparent political favoritism of



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recreational and tribal user groups and an inherent prejudice and discrimination against the non-tribal commercial fleet.

The fact is that the region's taxpayers have an investment in the lower Columbia gillnet fishery as well as the river and the salmon. The fish are a public resource paid for by state and federal taxes and commercial fishing provides public access to that public resource. In addition, the commercial gillnet fleet has long been a vital force in the economy and culture of the regions, providing much needed tax revenue and jobs, not only for fishermen, but for fish processors, buyers, marine and auto

parts suppliers, banks, and shippers and truckers and many others. The salmon decline has caused economic devastation to fishing dependent communities on the Columbia River, resulting in an estimated loss of up to 25,000 family wage jobs. Further, the arbitrary restrictions on non-tribal fisheries not only cause great harm to rural economies, but they deprive all of the public of the ability to purchase and consume some of the best quality salmon in the country, if not the world.

The commercial fishing fleet should have as much right as the recreational and tribal fisheries to access the public resource for which their tax dollars pay. If a salmon resource problem exists, all interests involved in the harvesting of the resource should share equally in preserving and enhancing it. To date, the commercial industry has borne the brunt of the restrictions, but has not been given the benefit of strong runs.

#### FAIRNESS IN SALMON RECOVERY EFFORTS

A veritable alphabet soup of government agencies including the BPA, NMFS, ODFW, WDFW, USF&WS, EPA, Corps of Engineers, and numerous other state and local government branches has spent billions upon billions of dollars

studying the Columbia River Salmon and its decline and adopting standards for salmon recovery under the ESA. After all of these studies and rulemaking and spending, the agencies concede that the salmon has continued to decline. Inexplicably, these agencies continue to base their recovery efforts primarily on harvest restrictions long after such limits have proven ineffective. Make no mistake, commercial fisherman understand the importance of restoring the salmon resource, in fact their livelihood depends upon it. However, an honest implementation of the ESA will require more than simplistic harvest restrictions, and will include a measures to implement other identified areas for salmon recovery, for example, the other three of the 4 "H's": Hydropower, Habitat and Hatcheries.

While management of fish harvest may be one limited way to improve dwindling runs of salmon, the historical evidence shows that it is not a particularly effective method. Fisheries agencies refuse to realistically address the role of the operation of Columbia River and Snake River dams that block fish passage, apparently simply because they are intimidated by the powerful constituents served by the dams.

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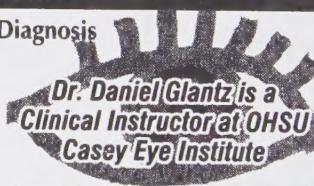


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Further, other solutions such as habitat recovery, hatchery programs and predator management may be equally or more effective than harvest restrictions but have not received the same emphasis.

Fisheries agencies now, albeit belatedly, acknowledge that the development and operation of the hydroelectric power system is responsible for a huge percentage of salmon loss. For example, NMFS concedes that dam operations will continue to significantly contribute to fish mortality regardless of fish passage improvements and further admits that salmon stocks have not improved despite over thirty years of very conservative harvest management. The fact that harvest limitations continue to be a primary salmon recovery effort while other factors are ignored demonstrates that the fisheries agencies have breached their public trust and their responsibilities under the ESA. Unfortunately, the commercial fishing industry bears the brunt of this mismanagement.

The current Spring Chinook run serves as yet another example of government shortsightedness and bias among governmental fishery managers in salmon recovery efforts. All agencies involved now have attributed the record spring Chinook run in 2001 not to previous harvest reductions, but to ocean conditions, river flow levels and barging around dams and higher production at contributing hatcheries. Any reasonable analysis would then suggest that more effort and funds should be expended on these types of salmon recovery efforts that have demonstrated results. Instead, salmon recovery seems to focus on punishing the commercial gillnet fishermen by keeping them on the dock and depriving them of their livelihood.

#### JUST AND ADEQUATE COMPENSATION

Columbia River gillnet fishermen are asking for realistic solutions and compensation for the treatment they have received and the damage that has been caused to their livelihoods by arbitrary government policies and unrealistic standards adopted under the guise of the ESA. However, to date, there have been a few unsuccessful attempts to "compensate" fishermen with token payments or buyback programs that would have the effect of "solving the salmon problem" by eliminating the fishermen. In contrast, the aluminum industry, farmers and countless other producers throughout the Columbia basin receive taxpayer

subsidies designed to keep them in business, not to drive them out. Further, though "select area" fisheries have been instituted with some success to aid the Lower Columbia fishing economy, they were never intended to and indeed cannot replace the traditional fishery on the Columbia River.

If the non-tribal commercial fishing fleet is not allowed to harvest salmon on a level playing field with other resource users, especially in a run of this magnitude, then justice requires that they receive full and adequate compensation. Though fishermen would rather be fishing, they are prepared to take to the courtrooms if necessary to protect their rights and to insist that the Endangered Species Act is implemented fairly to truly achieve salmon recovery.

#### CONCLUSION

Columbia River gillnet fishermen have a proud heritage on the Columbia River, many of them third and fourth generation fishermen. They are an independent, self-reliant lot and they do not ask for special treatment. However, they will not tolerate unfair and discriminatory treatment and they cannot sit idly by as their livelihood is sacrificed to arbitrary and unfair salmon recovery policies. To date, the gillnet fishermen have shouldered a disproportionate share in the salmon recovery effort by enduring thirty years of severe harvest restrictions, restrictions which fisheries agencies now admit have had little effect in reviving salmon runs. If the Columbia River salmon has any chance to truly recover, it will require that the Endangered Species Act must be implemented honestly and fairly, so that all resource user groups fairly share in the burdens, and so that all identified barriers to recovery are truly and responsibly addressed.

## Fishers give salmon away

*Gillnetters hope to raise awareness of issue by giving fish to homeless*

By Shane Powell, The Daily Astorian  
9/11/01

Columbia gillnetters would rather give their fish away than sell them at this year's paltry prices.

And lacking any promise of a better paycheck, that's the plan. Sixty salmon, caught Thursday in Youngs Bay, were headed to Dignity Village and homeless shelters in Portland this morning. "We have to make friends with people we might be joining," said Paul Takko, a fifth-generation fisherman.

More salmon, accompanied by crews of gillnetters, are scheduled to land Monday in Salem and Olympia, Wash.

Beyond feeding a few hungry mouths, the salmon are symbolic of the season's sour market and the need for protective tariffs on foreign farmed fish.

"There's a ton of fish in our bay, but we can't even make a dime on them," said Jack Marincovich, executive director of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union. "We'd rather see the citizens of the Northwest use the fish than watch them go to waste."

With the world awash in farmed fish, gillnetters from California to Alaska are snared in the worst salmon market in decades. Mirroring some species of wild salmon, commercial fishing livelihoods on the West Coast are sinking to worrisome numbers.

"The fishermen have been pushed to the brink of extinction, themselves," Marincovich said. "It's time we got some attention on this issue."

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the third day of the commercial salmon season, some 120 gillnetters gathered, once again, Thursday at Astoria's Red Lion Inn, struggling anxiously for solutions to the season's dismal prices.

By the meeting's end, a boat was on its way to catch a limited number of salmon to be given away in Portland today and Oregon and Washington state's capitals next week. One boat brought in fish and other fishermen gathered at the Astoria Yacht Club to clean the salmon.

The fishermen are hoping to pique the public's interest and rally a demand for the federal government step up in their defense.

Fishermen point particularly at the "impossibly low prices" that Chile's farmed salmon are sold at. Some question how fish more than 5,000 miles away are harvested, boxed and transported to the United States and still sold for less than a dollar a pound.

Allegations of dumping on the world market abound, but no one's proven the contention just yet.

"If a country is truly selling a fish for less than the cost of producing it, then we have legal grounds to prove dumping and take action on this," said Ann Richardson, field representative for

*Continues on page 11*



*The "Edith," in 1912, represents one of the earliest powered trollers. Trolling on the West Coast began with small sailing boats and came into its own with the gasoline engine.*

## Coho stripped of threatened status

*continues from page 1*

Oregon. That action lifts criminal and civil penalties for anyone caught killing or harming a wild coastal coho or its habitat.

It was unclear whether the decision would affect efforts led by Gov. John Kitzhaber to create improved habitat throughout Oregon watersheds to support coho.

But the deeper impact of the ruling, made Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Michael R. Hogan, extends well beyond coastal Oregon.

Hogan said the fisheries service erred by considering only wild fish and by not counting the far more numerous hatchery-born coho when it decided to list coastal coho for protection — a finding that knocks the legal legs from under two dozen West Coast salmon and steelhead listings made by the fisheries service since 1991.

Those listings extend from Puget Sound to Northern California, including the Portland region, and have built a \$4 billion-plus effort to save salmon throughout the Columbia Basin and coastal Oregon — the largest wildlife stewardship in American history.

Hatchery-born salmon are rarely counted when the fisheries service decides whether to list stocks under the Endangered Species Act. Fisheries service officials say they are most concerned about wild salmon, and worry that hatchery salmon threaten wild stocks by contaminating their gene pool or taking food and habitat.

An attorney with the San Francisco-based Pacific Legal Foundation, which brought the action, said hatchery fish are

genetically indistinguishable from wild fish. Not considering abundant runs of hatchery, fish when making listing decisions, Russ Brooks said, allows the federal government to use the Endangered Species Act to impose unnecessary and Draconian land-use controls.

"It's a clear and unambiguous ruling, and we were certainly surprised," said Brian Gorman, a fisheries service spokesman in Seattle. "Its implications could be considerable."

Gorman said his agency had not yet decided whether to appeal and would wait for instructions from the Bush administration.

The ruling was sharply condemned by conservationists.

"There are a lot of people who have been working to weaken the ESA," said Jim Myron, conservation director of Oregon Trout. "Maybe they've got what they've wanted with this decision."

Property-rights organizations and other foes of the Endangered Species Act were thrilled.

"It's just a great day," said Bill Moshofsky, executive director of Oregonians in Action, a Tigard based organization that defends property rights. "It's what we have been saying all along Hatchery fish and wild fish are the same."

The ruling follows a 1999 legal action against the fisheries service by the Alsea Valley Alliance, an organization upset that hatchery born coho were being clubbed at a state hatchery in order to keep them from breeding with wild coho.

—Jonathan Rinckman

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# Strongest Salmon Runs since 1938, but no Price or Market

The 3 million salmon that came back to the Columbia River this year represent the strongest run since 1938, but beyond the good feeling that Blackwolf gets fishing in the old way for his family and his longhouse, this taste of the "good old days" is deceiving.

## Scientist say runs won't last

Despite more than \$3 billion spent on restoring dwindling runs, scientists generally agree that this year's run is a happy accident of weather that won't last for long.

The economic bonanza enjoyed by the sport fishing industry did not extend to commercial fishermen, who tied up their boats and gave away fish to protest prices depressed by foreign farmed fish, which now call the shots in the marketplace.

Another good return is expected next year, but this year's drought and California energy crisis left little water in the Columbia for fish, and downstream migration survival rates were the lowest on record.

"The abundance and joy you saw on the river has little likelihood of repeating itself in 2003 and 2004," when those fish are due to come back, said Charles Hudson, spokesman for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

While habitat is being restored, it is not expected to bear fruit for 20 to 30 years, said Mike Matylewich, a commission biologist.

A stretch of good rainy winters the past five years made for unusually good survival for the young fish making their spring migration to the ocean, said Steve Williams, assistant director of the fish division for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

When they got to the ocean, a rare combination of winds, temperatures and currents jump-started the food chain, welling up nutrients from the ocean floor so that tiny plants called phytoplankton could thrive. This made for lots of food for tiny animals, called zooplankton, and in turn small fish, and finally, the salmon, Williams said.

## Next year should be good

Next year is projected to be another good return, but no one is proclaiming salmon victory.

Drought left little water in rivers, where young salmon spend up to two years before migrating to the ocean.

California's energy crisis led the Bonneville Power Administration to

declare an emergency, diverting what water there was and the young salmon in it - to turbines and away from spillways in the federal hydroelectric dams on the Columbia. Fish coming down the Snake River were barged around the dams, but not so in the Columbia. What little water was spilled over dams came after most of the fish had passed.

The result was the lowest downstream survival rates - as low as 19 percent for mid-Columbia steelhead—since scientists starting measuring that sort of thing in the early 1990s, according to the Fish Passage Center, which tracks the migration.

Economically, this year's returning adults were a bonanza for the sport fishing industry, filling motels, boat ramps, convenience stores and the boats of fishing guides in the Columbia estuary with happy fishermen and home freezers with fish.

So many people were fishing for chinook in the spring and summer, that "you couldn't buy a bag of potato chips on Sundays," said Vancouver Wash.,

fishing guide Eric Linde.

As the run kept growing, fisheries managers kept boosting bag limits, until they hit six fish a day.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported 158,000 angler trips - one person fishing for one day - at the mouth of the Columbia. That's more than double last year's tally, and more than 17 times the 9,000 trips in 1994, when returns were so weak federal fisheries managers practically shut down the ocean.

If people spend an average of \$100 a day on motels, meals, gas, guides, bait and beer, this year's sport fishing just at the mouth of the Columbia has spread \$16 million through the small communities along the banks of the river, said Liz Hamilton of the Northwest Sport Fishing Industry Association. .

Another 70,000 angler trips were estimated along the Columbia's tributaries, for another \$7 million. "I'm willing to bet this is one of the few bright spots in the Northwest economy," Hamilton said.



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But for commercial fishermen, it was a different story.

Columbia River gillnetters tied up their boats in September and gave away fish on the steps of the capitols of Oregon and Washington to protest prices held down by a market flooded with farm-raised salmon from Chile, Canada and Norway.

"We waited for years for these runs," said Jack Marincovich, executive director of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union. "Our gas is up to \$2 a gallon. We have to repair our boats. It's gotten to the point you're money ahead if you leave your boat tied up."

As the Northwest has struggled to reverse declining salmon returns the past 20 years, farmed fish have grown from a novelty to more than half the world supply, consistently available year-round.

The market dominance of farmed fish has moved the motivation for rebuilding salmon runs from restoring a mainstay of coastal fishing communities to cultural, biological, recreational and historical reasons, said fisheries economist Hans Radke.

"I suspect the prices we saw of high salmon will never be there again," Radke said.

## 2001 Record run means biggest catches since 1973

It was a record return of 410,000 upper Columbia River spring chinook, the largest since record keeping began in the late 1930s, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said. "The big numbers are due to generous river flows in 1998 and 1999, when this year's returning salmon were headed to the Pacific Ocean, and good ocean conditions once they got there" say the scientists. The season for hatchery spring chinook on the Columbia River, from the Bonneville Dam to Buoy 10 at the mouth, began Jan. 1 and was suspended April 18. It reopened briefly April 25-29. "That's the main fishery, and it was huge," said Craig Bartlett, a Fish and Wildlife spokesman. It was the longest season since 1977 and the largest catch - 26,000 hatchery chinook - since 1973.

The sportfishing association estimates that every salmon angler trip is worth about \$103 to the economy, and that this year's spring sport fishery meant about \$15.4 million in direct business to economies on both sides of the river."

## Gillnetters: Fishermen unable to survive at current prices

*Low prices, high costs prevent fishers from making a profit*

By Shane Powell-The Daily Astorian  
Aug 30, 2001

Whether local gillnetters fish or not in the upcoming salmon season may come down to 20 cents.

That's the amount many fishermen say prices paid per pound by canneries will have to rise this year before they'll untie their boats. "We simply can't make it at the price they're offering," said Gary Soderstrom, a gillnetter and president of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union. "We're not calling a strike, but we have to draw the line somewhere. "In a tense meeting of about 60 gillnetters Wednesday, that line was drawn at 50 cents per pound - 20 cents more than local processors have indicated they're willing to pay in the season that begins Tuesday in Youngs Bay.

In 1988, processors' prices peaked

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at about \$1.65 per pound. But in recent years, an infusion of hatchery salmon shipped from Chile and Japan has resulted in plunging markets and flustered fishermen throughout the Northwest and Alaska. The processors say the soft markets leave them with little choice as to what price they're able to pay gillnetters. "We can absolutely sympathize with the fishermen," said Steve Fick, owner of Astoria's Fishhawk Fisheries. "But there's a tremendous amount of fish on the world markets right now. It's very difficult." Fick said that if the gillnetters stick to 50 cents, he'd have to focus on other seafoods to support his business this fall. "We're definitely co-dependent on each other," he said. "But I'm not going to buy fish for more money than I can sell them for. As processors, we face the same issue of low prices that the fishermen do."

Overseas farmed fish are predicted to continue flooding the domestic markets. And the fishermen and processors say they just can't compete with the lower wages and other costs that those countries benefit from. On this note, Fick points at state legislators for ignoring the glut of foreign fish and not protecting the local salmon industry through subsidies or tariffs.

"We'd be in a totally different situation if it were any other agricultural product," he said. "We're certainly chagrined at our representatives' lack of interest."

The decision to fish is whether all the local gillnetters can act in unison. Despite the low prices, some might continue to fish or seek other markets, leaving the rest of the fish-

ermen with little leverage to nudge prices back up.

"A lot of this will depend on whether we stick together," Olson said. Although the market prices change every season, the forecast isn't good. For local gillnetters like Gary Olson, that could mean sitting the season out with the others. He points to gasoline at more than \$2 per gallon and drift nets that cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000. "You do the math," he said. "You can't make a living in this business at 30 cents a pound."



SUE CODY, The Daily Astorian

Fishermen Steve Telen, left, and Paul Takko clean salmon to be given to homeless people in Portland to protest the low prices caused by an international salmon glut.

## Givaway, continues from page 8

U.S. Rep. David Wu, D-Ore. Richardson was the lone federal attendee at Thursday's meeting.

"We've got to find out if Chile is really competing unfairly," she added.

"God knows, the fishermen at the mouth of the Columbia River have suffered enough."

Domestic imports of Chilean farmed salmon have increased unabated in recent years. And beyond allegations of predatory pricing, workers in the salmon industry are frustrated with the disparity between the U.S. and its counterpart in environmental and worker compliance standards. Chile's low production costs, they argue, create a heavily unfair pricing advantage.

Additionally, the fishermen point the finger back to the states of Oregon and Washington, whose divisions of natural resources sold Chile its salmon eggs in the first place in the early 1980s.

Chile accounted for 48 percent of the total year 2000 U.S. imports of farmed salmon. Those numbers have climbed in the first half of 2001, and Chile is currently negotiating a free trade agreement with the U.S., creating an even more ominous horizon for the fishermen.

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## The Sleeping Giant Awakes

From Fishemans News, Seattle, 9/01

### Fed-Up Fisherman Creates New Bristol Bay Marketing Association

"I fear we have awoken a sleeping giant." Buz Ottem is reminded of and likes to refer to this quote from Admiral Yamamoto during the second World War. An Oregon construction worker, Ottem has many seasons fishing in Bristol Bay's sockeye fishery under his belt and is fed up with what it has become.

Starting last summer while in Bristol Bay, Ottem has devoted almost all of his free time to do something on his, and others, behalf to better the fishery that has become synonymous with 'disaster' over the last several years. He has established the Bristol Bay Marketing Association.

According to Ottem, the Bristol Bay Marketing Association has "one agenda for all the fishermen in the Bay" - to have a pre-negotiated price settled before fishermen start fishing. Their goal is to have a price listed on fish tickets so fishermen can decide if it is economically viable for them to fish and so they know beforehand what price they

are fishing for.

"I am fed up with fishing on blank fish tickets," says Ottem. "The processors set a price, which they say is determined by their customers, and force feed it to us. This has got to stop and the time has come for us to do something about it. And I want people to know that we have one agenda to help all the fishermen, regardless of where you fish."

Starting with gathering signatures of interested fishermen this summer in Bristol Bay, Ottem says they managed to get close to a couple hundred fishermen to sign-up on sheets distributed throughout the Bay this last summer.

"I'm very happy thus far with the response we have received on this. Our next goal is to send out a mailing to all [Bristol Bay] permit holders with an introduction of who we are and an invitation to join," said Ottem. "And in the future, I can see our organization branching to other areas such as marketing."

Currently, the Bristol Bay Marketing Association is using donations as their "feed money", with donations of about \$100 per boat/permit being made by fishermen this summer. They have also reserved a booth for November's Fish Expo in Seattle.

To contact them, write to Bristol Bay Marketing Association, PO Box 883, Seaside, OR 97138, call 503-717-8484 or e-mail at bristolbay@seasurf.net. Ottem also requests that e-mail addresses are included with any correspondence. They currently have a web site under construction and will be viewable at <http://www.bristolbayunited.org>.



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## 'Monster' UA study to look at Inlet fishing

### BUYBACKS: Research to consider Idea of ending commercial fishery

By JON LITTLE Anchorage Daily News

SOLDOTNA—The University of Alaska is about to launch a study that will include this lightning-rod question: What would happen if the upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery were bought out, closed up, finished?

The idea of buying up permits held by setnetters and driftnetters who target the large but limited supply of Kenai River-bound salmon so craved by anglers has been raised for years. Proponents see it as a means to end the bitter fight between the commercial and sportfishing industries, the Cook Inlet salmon war that never really ends. It would hand the Kenai's remarkable salmon runs over to sportfishermen, dipnetters and other noncommercial users.

University president Mark Hamilton said he feels that question is an important part of a broader analysis of the Inlet commercial fishery's economic value in an era of falling wild fish prices and the rise of farmed salmon. But he knows what he is getting in for.

"I think it's a monster, and I think we're going to be yelled at and screamed at," Hamilton said in an interview Tuesday. But, he added, "I like the idea of taking a big bite and saying 'What if? Is it even feasible that you could buy out all these things? Are there mechanisms? Is it done elsewhere? What

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were the results?"

If there are answers to those and many related questions, he said, the university is as well suited as any to hunt them down.

UA announced Tuesday it will begin the Inlet fishing research, as well as five other economic studies, with \$500,000 in seed money provided by BP and Phillips Petroleum.

The research will also examine the air cargo industry, the future of Native corporations in economic development, preparing Alaskans for Alaska jobs, understanding the Permanent Fund, and the satellite data retrieval and analysis industry.

The University's Institute of Social and Economic Research will do most of the research. UA said the effort is to advise lawmakers looking to diversify the economy.

Some longtime proponents of keeping Kenai River salmon for anglers, such as the Kenai River Sportfishing Association's Bob Penney, embrace the new study. Penney wrote a letter to Hamilton last month asking the university to look into buybacks.

"It may be so unwelcome that it's not even feasible, but until you do the study, how do you know that?" Penney said. Hamilton, a personal guest of Penney's at the recent Kenai River Classic salmon habitat fund-raiser on the Kenai River, said the university had already planned this research at the urging of lawmakers before Penney wrote his letter. He said he got the letter Tuesday.

Reaction to the analysis, among those who were aware of it, is mixed.

Sen. Dave Donley, R-Anchorage, who described himself as an avid sportfisherman, said the Cook Inlet basin's fish streams ought to be set aside for anglers. He said he believes sport caught fish are more valuable economically than commercially caught fish, and that a study would prove that.

"This is a crucial role for the University of Alaska. It's a role a university is supposed to take," Donley said. "They must look at tough social issues, tough social problems and find solutions for them."

Kenai Peninsula lawmakers are cooler to the idea.

"My reaction is not favorable," said Rep. Drew Scalzi, a Republican from Homer who runs a commercial fish tender. Penney approached Scalzi and other legislators a few days ago with the concept, but Scalzi said he had no idea that money was already lined up to pay for it. "This is moving too fast," he said Scalzi, Sen. John Torgerson, a Republican from Kasilof, and Rep. Ken Lancaster, a Soldotna Republican, said they told Penney that any research into a commercial buyout should include talks with people in the business. "I think if (Hamilton) wants to do this thing, I suggested early on that he meet with fishermen and get a sense of which way they want to go," Torgerson said. Sometimes anglers and tourism backers lose sight of an important fact, especially as the commercial fishing industry in Cook Inlet appears to be on the ropes, Scalzi said. Money isn't always the bottom line. For many setnetters and drifters, plucking fish from a gillnet is as much of a thrill as wetting a line is to an angler. "They've been doing it all their lives, their grandfathers did it, they just enjoy the lifestyle," he said.

Rob Williams, a board member of United Fishermen of Alaska and president of Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association, a setnetters organization, said he supports research in general. But a buyout could be a tough sell, he predicted. Reporter Jon Little can be reached at [jlittle@adn.com](mailto:jlittle@adn.com) or at 907-260-5248.

## Study Finds Stellar Sea Lions Prefer Herring

A recent study, published by Nature, reports that Stellar sea lions feed exclusively on Pacific herring, and that the importance of this prey food was drastically underestimated in previous studies.

The study is of great interest to Alaska's \$700 million pollock industry, which federal regulators have restricted to protect sea lions. Some scientists theorize that the Stellers might be losing to competition with fishing boats for food. The abundant, white-fleshed fish targeted in Alaska's most valuable fishery are used to produce fast-food fish portions and a versatile protein paste called surimi.

The study, conducted by Gary L. Thomas and Richard E. Thorne, of the Prince William Sound Science Center in Cordova, Alaska, combined sonar surveys of Pacific herring and walleye pollock with infrared scanning of foraging sea lions. Scientists are not certain whether competition with fishing boats or ocean climate shifts are to blame for the steep decline in Stellers across Western Alaska, including in the Sound. Some suggest pollock are not as nutritious for sea lions as more oily fish such as herring and capelin.

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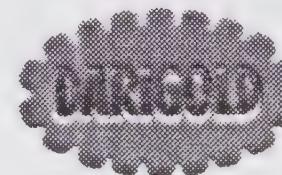
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## Fingerlings wiggle their way here to boost net pen project

OCTOBER 4, 2001

Approximately 849,000 coho fingerlings will be delivered to the Clatsop County Economic Development Council's Fisheries Project net pens in Youngs Bay this week. The first six truckloads have already arrived. These fingerlings are from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Herman Creek Pond near Bonneville Dam. The fish are transported in specially designed tank trucks, each holding about 50,000 fish. The silvers will be raised in the net pens over the winter and released next spring. They are expected to return to Youngs Bay as adults for harvesting in fall 2003. During the winter, the fish will double in size. Currently, it takes 30 of the fingerlings to make up one pound. The fish are provided through the federal Mitchell Act, which funds salmon restoration and enhancement projects. The CEDC Fisheries Project was created in 1976 to enhance the local

salmon fishing industry. In its first year of operation, the program released 50,000 salmon smolts into Youngs Bay. Today, the program operates three estuarine netpen sites (Youngs Bay, Tongue Point and Blind Slough) and a freshwater site on the South Fork Klaskanine River. The net-pen sites are in "select" areas where sport and commercial harvest can occur on selected stocks while allowing protection of mainstem Columbia threatened or endangered stocks. This year, the project released about 3 million coho, 790,000 spring chinook and 205,000 bright fall chinook smolts. Returning high-quality adults provided about \$450,000 to fishers in the 2000 select area fisheries. The project is funded by grants by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Bonneville Power Administration and poundage fees paid by local processors and fishermen.



*Rod Litton, CEDC Fisheries Project biologist, monitors coho fingerlings as they are delivered into the Youngs Bay net pens. The silvers are "pumped" down a huge hose from specially designed tank trucks that transported them from a state hatchery near Bonneville Dam.*



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# Salmon For All

## NEWS

### Salmon Planning Act Update

In July, Washington Rep. Jim McDermott introduced the Salmon Planning Act, a bill that includes the following measures: First, an independent peer review of the Federal Salmon Plan by the National Academy of Sciences to examine the plan's biological standards. Second, engineering studies for partial dam removal and studies of how best to help any effected communities, including lower river communities, once the dams are removed. Finally, it grants authority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to partially remove the 4 Lower Snake River dams if other recovery measures fail and the action is found necessary to save the Snake River salmon. The Salmon Planning Act is currently gaining Congressional support. To date, 44 members have signed on as co-sponsors to the bill.

### Hydro Bi-Op Legal Challenge

A lawsuit challenging the Biological Opinion issued by NMFS for operation of the Columbia and Snake River dams was filed early in May. In August, Judge Garr King recommended the parties explore mediation or some form of dispute resolution other than litigation. Currently, the attorneys are considering all possible options. The lead attorney for the plaintiffs, Todd True, would like to see the case resolved early next year, in time to prevent another disaster similar to 2001 where the federal hydropower system failed to provide adequate flow for out-migrating salmon and steelhead. The plaintiffs in the suit include 15 environmental, conservation and fishing organizations, including Salmon for All. Call Salmon for All for more information about the lawsuit.

### Spring 2002 Allocation Discussions Continue Through the Fall

In July, the states of Oregon and Washington opened public discussions regarding sharing of the non-treaty portion of Upriver and Willamette Spring chinook between the commercial and recreational fleets. Three subsequent public meetings have been held. The Willamette Sharing Agreement has been replaced by the Willamette Fish Management Evaluation Plan, (FMEP) written by Oregon and adopted by NMFS last winter. The new FMEP requires the release of non-fin clipped salmon. Several scenarios of management guidelines are currently being considered. The FMEP requirements will lead to a new sharing agreement due

to the commercial fleet's ability to release fish live. Live release will allow the commercial fleet to be managed using a mortality rate similar to the recreational fleet. The Fish and Wildlife Commissions from both States will make decisions regarding allocation by December. For information on upcoming meetings, call Salmon for All at (503) 325-3831.

### The States have not yet determined the required gear for the Spring 2002 fishery.

However, Salmon for All has requested that any decision be made with consideration given to the economic interests of the fishermen. Salmon for All has also encouraged the States to continue gear testing and to proceed with scientific certainty. For more information about the tooth-net test results call ODF&W at (503) 657-2000 or WDF&W at (360) 902-2793.

Members of the fishing community should contact their elected officials and urge them to support the Salmon Planning Act. For more information about HR 2573, contact Salmon for All at (503) 325-3831.

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
October 5, 2001

The Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington met today to review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian fishing options. The Compact took the following actions:

### MAINSTEM COMMERCIAL FISHERY

#### Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial salmon season as follows:

Seasons:

7 am Mon. Oct. 8 to 7 am Fri. Oct. 12 (4 days)  
7 am Mon. Oct. 15 to 7 am Fri. Oct. 19 (4 days)  
7 am Mon. Oct. 22 to 7 am Fri. Oct. 26 (4 days)  
7 am Mon. Oct. 29 to 7 PM Wed. Oct. 31  
(2 1/2 days)

Area: Mouth upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1-5) during October 8-26.

From a line extending from Harrington Point in Washington to Settler Point in Oregon upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 2-5) during October 29-31.

Sanctuaries: Grays Bay, Elokom-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in effect, except Grays Bay sanctuary is not in effect during October 29-31.

Gear: 9 3/4" maximum mesh size restriction in effect.

Allowable Sales: Salmon only. No sturgeon sales allowed.

### TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERY

#### Commercial Salmon Fishery

When the Klickitat River is open during the time period of Wednesday October 17 through Saturday December 15, the sales of salmon will be allowed outside the immediate area of the Klickitat River so long as the fisher

obtains and has in possession a permit from the Yakama Indian Nation that allows sale of salmon outside the immediate area of the Klickitat River.

#### Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery (Zone 74)

Open 6 PM to 8 AM (14 hours) nightly during the following weeks:

Mon. Oct. 1 - Fri. Oct. 5 (4 nights)  
Mon. Oct. 8 - Fri. Oct. 12 (4 nights)  
Mon. Oct. 15 - Fri. Oct. 19 (4 nights)  
Mon. Oct. 22 - Fri. Oct. 26 (4 nights)  
Mon. Oct. 29 - Fri. Oct 31 (2 nights)

#### Tongue Point South Channel Fishery (Zone 71)

Seasons and Areas:

Open 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours) nightly during the following weeks:

Tue. Sept. 4 - Fri. Sept. 7 (3 nights)  
Tongue Point only

Mon. Sept. 10 - Fri. Sept. 14 (4 nights)  
Tongue Point only

Mon. Sept. 17 - Fri. Sept. 21 (4 nights)  
Tongue Point & South Channel

Mon. Sept. 24 - Fri. Sept. 28 (4 nights)  
Tongue Point & South Channel

Open 6 PM to 8 AM (14 hours) nightly during the following weeks:

Monday October 1 - Friday October 5 (4 nights) Tongue Point & South Channel  
Monday October 8 - Friday October 12 (4 nights) Tongue Point & South Channel  
Monday October 15 - Friday October 19 (4 nights) Tongue Point & South Channel  
Monday October 22 - Friday October 26 (4 nights) Tongue Point & South Channel  
Monday October 29 - Wednesday October 31 (2 nights) Tongue Point & South Channel

Area: **Tongue Point** fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from the red light at Tongue Point to the flashing green light at the rock jetty on the northwesterly tip of Mott Island, a line from a marker at the south end of Mott Island easterly to a marker on the

northwest bank of Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island due westerly to a marker on the opposite bank.

South Channel fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green buoy "7" thence to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to flashing red marker "10" thence northwesterly to a marker on the sand bar defining the terminus of South Channel.

**Gear:** In **Tongue Point** fishing area legal gear is restricted to 6-inch maximum mesh size, net not to exceed 250 fathoms in length, and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds of weight on any one fathom. Fishers participating in the Tongue Point fishery may have stored on board their boat gill nets with leadline in excess of two pounds per fathom.

In **South Channel** fishing area legal gear is restricted to 6-inch maximum mesh size, a net not to exceed 100 fathoms in length, and no weight restrictions on the leadline.

**Allowable Sales:** Salmon only. No sturgeon sales allowed.

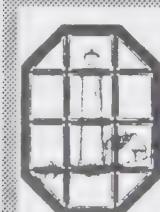
**Miscellaneous Regulations:** Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations are in effect.

#### Deep River and Steamboat Slough Gillnetters increase fishing time.

Following is a summary of the regulations adapted at the August 17 Columbia River Compact and a proposal to modify these regulation at the upcoming September 7 compact.

**Expected Harvest Deep River:** 20,000 coho  
**Steamboat Slough:** 10,000 coho

The net pen releases at each site were essentially the same as for last year's fishery in which we had harvests of 13,400 coho at Deep River and 400 coho at Steamboat Slough. We're assuming that harvests will be much higher at both locations, especially at Steamboat Slough.



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#### Seasons:

##### Deep River

7 PM - 7 AM; Tues., Wed., & Thurs.  
nights Sept. 4-6 (3 nights)

7 PM - 7 AM; Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.  
nights Sept. 10-28 (12 nights)

6 PM - 8 AM: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.  
nights Oct. 1-31 (19 nights)

##### Steamboat Slough

7 PM - 7 AM; Tues., Wed., & Thurs.  
nights Sept. 4-6 (3 nights)

7 PM - 7 AM; Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.  
nights Sept. 10-28 (12 nights)

6 PM - 8 AM: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.  
nights Oct. 1-31 (19 nights)

Notice that the amount of time is essentially  
the same as last year's season.

#### Gear:

100 Fathoms in Length  
6-inch Maximum Mesh Size Restriction  
No Weight Restrictions

#### Area:

Deep River open above markers at mouth of  
river. Concurrent waters are below Hwy 14  
bridge. Steamboat Slough opening bounded  
by markers at both ends of Price Island.  
Concurrent waters.

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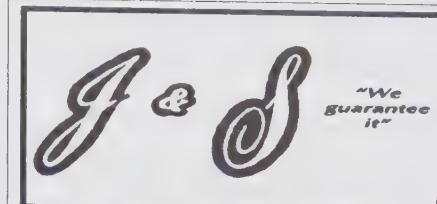
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# The Recruit

**Mr. Riswick:**

My stepfather, George Bold, began his lifelong career as a fisherman at age eleven working with his father gillnetting salmon in the Columbia River. He shared his memories of those days with us and frequently I thought his remembrances would make great reading. The story I include with this letter is a fictionalized account of one youngster's experience with the fishing industry. While I realize your publication does not usually print fiction, I felt this might be of interest to your readers.

Thank you, Rochelle Coulombe  
Warenton, OR

I smell the frying bacon and know that Mama will soon be calling me down to the kitchen. My little brothers, Wilhelm and Jan, are still sleeping soundly. This year, 1930, is the year of my tenth birthday. Now is the time I get to go on the boat with Papa. I know Mama thinks it's too soon, but Pieter is gone and the girls

stay home. Papa always said, "When you are ten. When you are ten. That is soon enough."

Fishing is our life. Salmon from the Pacific. Salmon from the great Columbia River and Salmon from Alaska. Our gillnet boat will catch more fish if I'm there to help Papa. I'll be good at taking salmon from the net. We will cross the Columbia River bar and travel up river a few miles. Then we will set our nets to catch fish. If I'm there to help, Papa can take a rest once in a while. If I'm there to help, maybe we can pull in one more net full of fish. If I'm there to help, I won't be here milking the cow or feeding the pigs or pulling weeds in the garden. If I'm on the boat with Papa, Mama and the girls will have to get along without me.

Breakfast smells good. I'd better get dressed. Mama always fixes oatmeal, potatoes, eggs, and bacon. She says we need enough breakfast to keep a hard working family going all morning. Papa is already eating. "Better fill up, Fritz! It will be some time before we get another hot meal." As Mama handed me a plate, her face still looked doubtful. "Ten years is young to be out on the river."

Remember when Hank fell overboard and nearly drowned?"

"How about if we give it a try. The weather is good and Fritz will keep me company."

"Are you sure the weather will hold?"

"Yes. Let's go, son. We must catch the tide!" We hurry down to the dock where our boat, *The Recruit*, is moored. Our gillnet boat is twenty-two feet long, just the right size to take up the river.

The Columbia River bar can be very dangerous, but today the winds are calm and the water is not rough. The salmon run is in full swing. There are boats as far upriver as I can see, bobbing and weaving, looking for the perfect spot to lay out net.

Papa smiled at the sight. "Not so long ago, all the boats had sails. Butterfly boats we were called. We spread our wings and caught salmon. Now our new five horse power engine will do most of the work!"

I leaned as far over the side as I could counting all the boats.

"Careful Son, I don't want to be fishing you out of the water!"

We headed for the North side of the river and found a protected cove to lay out our net. Over and over again we let the net drift then pulled it in loaded with fish. Soon, we had more silvery salmon than I had ever seen.

As the sun went down, a wonderful silence fell over the river. The stars and moon shined down. When I looked into the water the stars glittered back. Sometimes I thought I saw the twinkly reflection of salmon swimming by.

"Papa, the fish look like stars twinkling in the river."

"Well maybe cold, wet, slippery stars!"

"Papa, will there always be salmon for us to catch?"

"For sure, there are more salmon than there are stars. We will always be fishermen."

We laid out the net and pulled it in. Harvesting salmon with each drift; picking them from the net where their gills caught in the mesh.

"Sometimes at night fisherman can get pretty lonely. The stars are beautiful, but the storms can be fierce and even in summer, the cold sinks to your bones. On nights like tonight, it's good to have someone to talk with. It helps pass the time. Another drift or two, and we'll be loaded and head to the fish buyer. You better get some rest."

I pulled my coat close around me and dozed off. When I woke up, thick sea fog

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covered the river and surrounded us with mist. I heard the muffled sound of an engine. The low chug, chug, chug drumming through the fog came from somewhere on the river.

"Papa, that chugging engine sounds close."

"The fog plays tricks with sound. We're well away from the deep channel."

Suddenly, the chugging was close. Papa yelled and waved the lantern. "Look out! There's a little boat here!" The tug narrowly missed our bow, but it caught the net. The tug was dragging us along.

"That tug will pull us over! Hurry, cut the net loose!" Our load of salmon shifted.

*The Recruit* was leaning dangerously to one side. Papa fell on the slippery boards and could not get up. "We are going to take on water for sure! Quick! You need to cut us free. Here, take my knife." I leaned over the edge and cut the lines. We lost the net and the fish in it but we still had our full load. Papa stood up and rubbed his shoulder as we listened to the boat chug away. "That tug didn't know how close they came to us. Our little lantern just wasn't enough of a beacon in the darkness. You sure were right about helping. Without your help, we would have lost our load of fish and the boat!"

We waited until daylight before starting our engine and heading for the buyer. As we unloaded our catch, Papa told the other fishermen what happened. "Fishing on a foggy night can be dangerous. If it hadn't been for Fritz, *The Recruit* would be at the bottom of the river."

On our way home, I thought about my first fishing trip with Papa. I knew I would be able to help him but I hadn't known I would save our boat and a load of fish! Mama will be surprised!

## C.R.F.P.U. was organized over 100 years ago to serve the interests of the Columbia River Commercial Fishermen

In the early years the dealings of the Union were different than today. Problems addressed were fish prices, pollution, opposing the construction of dams, making sure dams had proper fish passage facilities, supporting the Mitchell Act which was set up to establish fish hatcheries to replace fish runs damaged by the dams, etc.

During the late 1950's and early 60's with the increased population in the Northwest and more interest in recreation, our industry has been under constant attack from sportfishing interests.

In 1964 it was put before the People of Oregon to do away with commercial fishing on the Columbia River. The CRFPU along with Salmon For All and strong support from the local communities along the Columbia River were able to defeat the initiative petition by a large margin.

In the mid 70's the Fish Commission and the Wildlife Commission merged—a move we did not support. Steelhead then became a game fish which created a loss of a good market fish for the commercial fishermen and consumers.

In the 90's, most of the fish runs were down to low harvestable numbers. Going through these lean years, we have looked forward to harvestable numbers of fish, but the Wild Fish Policy lists a number of run species as endangered, this allows us to only harvest a small amount of fish on large returning runs.

Most runs returning in the next few years will be "fin clipped" (ie: hatchery fish) which opens the door for a catch and release program.

Now, we are being asked to use a new type of net and new gear better known as "Tooth Nets" so that we can release so-called "wild" salmon that we might catch.

Most fishermen, myself included

oppose the plan as it has not even been thoroughly tested for effectiveness.

Tooth Nets and foreign farmed fish (which have driven salmon prices to record lows) are the two biggest issues we will be facing in next year.

In the interest of our welfare, I urge all fisherman to attend meetings dealing with these critical issues. Your input is needed, and will make a difference if you choose to participate. At the end of November, CRFPU will be holding its annual meeting and we will be working on strategies to meet the new challenges we face. Please contact our office if you would like to be a part of the solution.

—Jack Marincovich, Secretary, CRFPU

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## The History of the Carp fish



Onni Puustinen & Carp for pet seal food. His dad was a seal hunter.

A most unlikely fish to appear in the pages of a book called the Fisheries of the North Pacific is the carp, a stolid, widely-occurring fresh-water fish closely related to the common goldfish and other members of the minnow family.

But there is something of a commercial fishery for carp along the Pacific Coast from California to Washington. The latter state outdoes its sisters to the south in carp catching with total annual landings of more than one

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million pounds.

Some of the catch goes for human consumption, especially in communities with substantial populations of southern origin, both black and white. Carp may be found most of the year in the famed Pike Place Market in Seattle, Washington, where its sale is determined by its comparatively modest price as much as by regional heritage. The carp also is used for mink feed and for reduction.

The several varieties of carp, all members of the genus *Cyprinus*, are native to Asia. The carp appeared in Europe about 1227 where it became and still is a skillfully-cultivated food fish. In 1877, it was imported into the United States in another of those ill-conceived transplants such as those that sent the rabbit to Australia, the starling to North America and the gray squirrel to England.

The carp probably would have spread across the continent on its own but the process was accelerated by still another poorly-planned scheme, that of stocking every farm pond in the country with a fish likely to thrive under rough conditions and supply food to hungry farmers.

That the carp thrived is an understatement of the first order. It has thrived so well in the near-century since its first tail wiggle on the American shore that it now is found in every state except Alaska and Hawaii and in most of the provinces of Canada. Despite its high standing in Europe and Asia, the carp on this continent is regarded as a nuisance by everyone, including the descendants of those gullible farmers who listened to the blandishments from Washington, D.C., and accepted the carp plantings in 1879 and the years after. Those descendants are still trying to rid their ancestral waters of the myriad descendants of the first carp. In one way or another, the carp has come to occupy water bodies that might be better used by such as the basses and the sunfish. Where the carp moves in, the catfish is about the only fish not crowded out.

The carp is a chunky, humpbacked fish with large scales and two barbels on the sides of its mouth. The largest ever recorded weighed 83 pounds. Twenty pounds or so is not uncommon and carp from five to 10 pounds are to be found in almost every place where the fish occurs. The carp is a prolific

spring spawner with large females capable of shedding up to two million eggs a season. The eggs are adhesive and cling to vegetation or whatever happens to be handy. They hatch in from six to 12 days and the young grow up to nine or 10 inches in length in a year under favorable conditions.

Carp feed on the bottom, often in water so shallow that their arched backs show above the surface as the fish work their way through the roily water. They are not particular in matters of diet, impartially devouring vegetation, insect larvae, crayfish, snails and other fish, including their own young. A characteristic of the carp is its night-time habit of leaping from the water to fall back splashingly, a fuss that can be heard at some distance from the lakes and sloughs the fish prefers. It is a sound in the night remembered always by those who have heard it as children. The carp has a singular virtue in connection with children, it must be added. It is one of the easiest of all fishes to catch and a very young fisherman with the most primitive of cane pole, twine line, cork bobber and a few worms or a handful of dough balls can catch carp as long as he wishes.

For all the hard things said about carp, it is as good eating as many other fishes more highly regarded. The flesh is firm and flaky although it sometimes is grayish more than white. The flesh of older fish may have a distinct fishy taste or even a taste of the mud it lives in but the flesh of young carp is no fishier than the flesh of the lingcod or the rockfishes. Most of the fishy flavor may be removed from carp by soaking fillets or chunks in cold salt water, fortified by the addition of sliced onions, for several hours or overnight if one cares to go to that much trouble.

Much of the carp caught commercially in Washington come from the sloughs of the lower Columbia River. The pools behind the Army Engineers' carelessly planned Columbia River dams offer ideal conditions for the propagation of carp while, at the same time, their warm and stagnant waters kill off the fine anadromous species that once used the free-running river in such vast numbers.

Almost all commercially-caught carp are taken by hand-hauled beach seines in one of the simplest of commercial fisheries. Set lines are sometimes used also.

# Silver Salmon Celebration



The logo for the event was designed by Roger Warren, manager of the Gnat Creek Fish Hatchery

The Silver Salmon Celebration was held in Astoria at the West Mooring Basin on October 6th and 7th.

This year the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce Fisheries Committee organized an event to support the local fishing industry and to celebrate the history of the salmon industry in the lower Columbia River. The event was held in conjunction with the Great Columbia Crossing. This two day event featured a BBQ salmon dinner prepared by Chef Eric Jenkins of the Seafood School. There was live music by local bands, fish art creations by local artisans, and a signature beer from a local micro-brewery was served at the beer garden.

The highlight of the event was fresh, locally caught salmon available for sale to the public. Columbia River salmon fishermen answered questions about the fishing industry and several commercial fishing boats were moored at the West Mooring Basin for public viewing.

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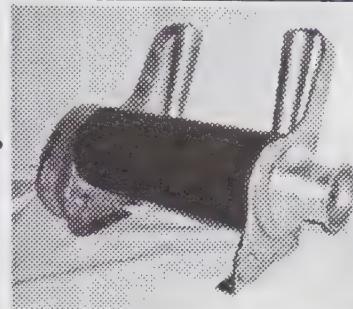
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# FISHING DISASTERS AND NEAR MISSES

...One great sudden storm which struck the river mouth of the Columbia on the fateful day of May 4, 1880, and took the lives of some 200 Columbia River Fishermen whose frail sailing gillnet boats were swallowed by unruly waves....

Commercial fishermen today risk their lives every time they leave the dock in their fishing boats. Imagine what fishing was like in the 1870's when power to move the boat was supplied by wind or muscle. A sudden squall often led to disaster because it could not be outrun, but had to be endured. Barometers were owned by few people, and weather prediction was still in a crude stage. There were no radios to send out distress signals and no Coast Guard to send out a boat or helicopter for a rescue. When the two crew members with their fishing boat disappeared into the waters of the river and the ocean, they might wash ashore days later, generally on the Washington beaches, and rarely alive. Host boats and nets were owned by the canneries and so when a fisherman disappeared, it was the cannery that sent out scouts to round up the valuable boat and net. The fisherman's widow and children received no compensation for their loss and little help. Following are some excerpts from old records.

"—S.W. Childs' who was reported lost last night, says "it is a mistake, and that he is good for lots of salmon yet." During the severe blow yesterday morning from three to five o'clock, the welfare of fishermen at work in the bay was one of anxiety. One boat is known to have been lost—as it passed Chinook the cries of the fishermen in it were to no purpose, as no boat could be launched, in the condition of the surf, as it was then, to go to the assistance of those in distress, and an

empty boat, badly demolished on the beach below Chinook probably tells of disaster and loss of life. Mr. Childs boat and others were reported missing last evening. The hope is that all may turn up safe. Mr. C. did not go out Sunday night. Others supposed to be lost, may have remained at home also." May 16, 1876

"—We regret to hear that our friend S.W. Childs lost his boat Monday night, during the gale, on Sand Island. But in all disasters there are some grains for comfort. In this case, Mr. Childs and his boat-puller saved themselves. We hope to hear that the boat may not become a total loss." May 30, 1876 Daily Astorian

"—A private letter from Badollet & Co's factory, dated June 7th says: We have reason to believe that Ed. Williams and Johnson, boat puller, two of our fishermen have been lost, not having been seen or heard of since Sunday evening, of which you will please make note in your paper." June 10, 1876 WA

"—Hope and search has been abandoned, for Williams and Johnson, fishermen for Badollet Co., who were lost a week ago last night. We understand that the boat came ashore north of Cape Hancock about eight miles, and the net was found south of Point Adams about six miles, just how true the statement is we are unable to say. Williams was a daring spirit, excitable, and it is presumed ventured so near to the bar that return was impossible. He formerly boarded at Mrs. Daggett's. [Sophie Daggett's boarding house was on the North East corner of 11th and Franklin in Astoria and was later known as the Arlington Hotel.] Johnson was formerly a deck hand on the Beaver. We do not know that either have any kinsfolk in this country." June 12, 1876

"—Mr. C. Leinenweber returned last night from his search after Williams and Johnson, the lost fishermen. He found the sail two oars and eighteen fathom of the net down the beach, fourteen miles south of the bar, but the men were nowhere to be seen, dead nor alive." June 18, 1876 WA

"—Charley Brown, employed by the Anglo American Packing Company, was the fisherman who went out to sea in company with the boat picked up by the Forward. He crossed the bar on the morning of Monday, May 28th, and finding himself fixed for a voyage, secured everything on board his boat, and prepared to make the best of it. He set sail for Shoalwater bay, which he reached in safety, then continued on up to the portage of Bear river, reaching there on Tuesday when he hired a farmer to pull his boat across the portage with cattle. On Wednesday he launched his boat into the Columbia again, and began fishing. He met with very good success, and was the first man to hitch on to the tow line of the tug Thursday morning with 31 fine Salmon in his boat. He was joyfully welcomed home by all, having been out three nights, and given up as lost." June 9, 1877

"—An Italian, name unknown, fishing for John A. Devlin & Co., went to sea Sunday night, May 27th, and had a very stormy time of it. He came in alive but his companion died soon after getting to sea, the first night. He struck the beach in Tillamook county, just north of the Necarney, on Monday last and by the aid of Temple and Z.N. Seeley and Jacob R. Cromwell pulled his boat upon the beach, and he is now on his way to Astoria and is expected to arrive here today. The poor fellow has had a very hard time. His life was spared by the accident of having caught a sturgeon. For several days he clung to the bottom of his boat at sea turning it on the 8th day, before he reached shore. Mr. Seeley arrived here yesterday." June 9, 1877

"—Mr. Thomas Logan is the man who landed one of Badollet and Co's boats below the Seaside after being outside three days and three nights [on the ocean]. Mr. Logans presence of mind enabled him to save his net, boat and catch (amounting to 56 salmon). The boat arrived safely at the cannery. On Wednesday a portion of the expenses of his eventful trip was defrayed by a portion of the catch he had in his boat when he came ashore. Mr. Logan is the

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husband of Minnie Myrtle Miller and the dangerous voyage he made terminating so happily as it did may be the means of inspiring the muses enabling Mrs. Logan to produce something elegant on the subject." June 15, 1877. Mrs. Logan's first husband was the well-known Joaquin Miller.

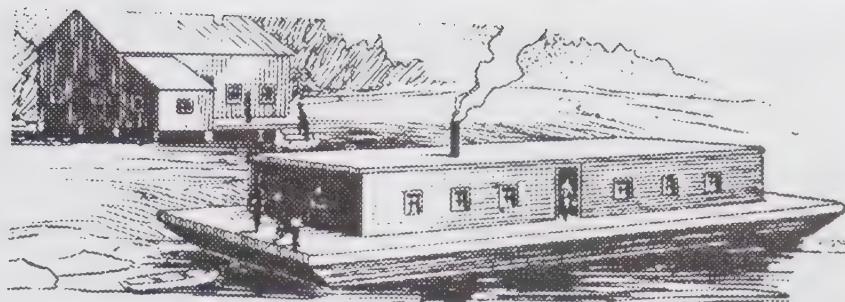
"—On Saturday night the fishermen employed in Kinney's boat No. 19, on taking up their net near the spar buoy off Smith's Point, found the body of a dead man entangled therein. They brought the body to town and notified acting coroner Fox of the circumstance. The body was conveyed to the engine house [fire station] and a jury summoned and an inquest held. The result of the coroner's inquest proved the body to be that of August March, a Prussian about 38 years of age, who was accidentally drowned by falling, while asleep, from a fishing boat on the evening of the eighth of June." June 23, 1877

"—One of Jos. Hume's fishing boats was seen returning to the cannery at Knapton about noon yesterday with only one man and part of a net. Whether the other man was lost or not we did not learn. The wind was blowing severely." April 20, 1878

"—Messrs. Devlin Co. received a private letter last evening from Mr. P.J. McGowan, of Chinook, that a boat marked D. & Co.' No. 7, had come ashore on the beach with the net. One of the men was found entangled in the net, lifeless, while the other is supposed to be drowned." Nay 5, 1878 W

"Mr. Martin Grain, a Swede, comparatively a stranger here, but employed by the Astoria fishery as a fisherman, lost his life on Wednesday night by a fool-hardy attempt to fish on the bar, only accidentally drifting to that locality of real danger in a small fishing boat. It appears that he threw out his net on the south side of Sand island, and, drifting down past the island was caught by the breakers and the boat, which was one of the largest and best ones of the large Kinney cannery, was completely turned over end-wise, throwing both men, and every movable thing into the sea. The cries of the men were distinctly heard, and one of J.G. Megler Co's boats near by went to their relief, saving the boat-puller, the net and the boat, but poor Martin Grain was lost. We are unable to say whether deceased leaves a family or any friends in this country."

July 6, 1878



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# The day Oregon Fell in the River

By Elroy Svensen, Puget Island Norwegian



**January 29, 1965, 35 years ago, is a day Elroy Svensen of Puget Island will always remember. First it was his wife's birthday, but, it was also the night that a huge chunk of an Oregon cliff fell into the Columbia River, claiming one life, destroying a house, pushing a two story home from outside the dike road to the inside and strewing debris on a large section of the Island.**

Here is his story:

It starts like this some, Fred Larsen, a friend of mine lived' in a floathouse about one mile east of Bugby Hole in Oregon. This is above the Bonneville Power Crossing on North Welcome Slough road. He told us that some day a large size catastrophe would hit the Island. He used to hunt in Oregon above the slide area and navigated the Columbia in his skiff. He used to row to the Stan Tholo farm for milk, to Cathlamet, Westport and to Wauna almost every day. About a mile from his place was the Bugby train stop where Islanders would get their mail. Later they had mailboxes on their floats. The first Island post office was in the North Welcome Slough home of Carrie Bjorge which is now the Lee Tischer home.

This bachelor friend of mine, a man of Norwegian descent, was nicknamed Kangaroo Fred. He rowed his skiff wherever he wanted to go and as a result had arms as big as my legs.

Every time something happened on the Island it seems like I was in the middle of it. I was in two different barns that blew down, both had cattle in them. I came down to help get the animals out, some walked out, some were pinned in there,

with broken necks and bones and had to be put out of their misery. I never heard anything like the sounds in my life, the mournful sounds they made when they were in trouble.

On January 29. 1965, my wife's birthday, Esther had been out to a women's party, I had been listening to the dreadful sound of cattle as our kitchen window was open, and every once in a while I could hear a big chunk of the hill come down.

My wife cooked coffee for me and when we finished drinking it, it was almost midnight. I said that I was going down there to get the widow Mrs. Bessie Olsen and the bachelor Haakon Gabrielsen out. She said she was going with me. I found out through life that you never argue with a woman so we left just before midnight. We stopped at the power tower, everything was peaceful and I hate to wake anybody up in the middle of the night, so we drove on to where Ostervold, Crossdike and North Welcome Slough roads meet.

On the way back we stopped at the tower to wake Haakon up. He lived about 100 feet from the tower. I paused with one foot on the road when all hell broke loose. The, Bonneville high tension wires were making so much lightning that I got scared. I got into my car and put my foot to the gas pedal of my four-month old Chev Impala. When we went by the widow's (Mrs. Bessie Olsen) house we were doing 70 or 80 miles per hour. Telephone poles were out on the road ahead of us and as luck would have it they reached only to the middle of the road.

When we went flying by Aegerter's Dairy, they could see debris piling across the road behind us. The widow's house I found out later came across the road right behind us.

When we came up where Halfdan Larsen lived, now owned by Reeses, two men were on the road, I stopped. They wondered what was going on. You can believe this or not, two women were standing on the porch and a wall of water came over the dry land and took their steps away. We went home to see the damage there. You wouldn't believe what was going on in Welcome Slough, my float ordinarily had two feet of freeboard. The water would go over the deck at one end and pretty quick it would come back the other way, unbelievable. Chains and cables were clanking and snapping, some broke loose. I got up on my picket fence to keep my

feet dry as the water level was going up and down three to four feet.

Marvel Blix and his wife and two children came by in their car, and while we were talking to them, Sheriff Hans Fluckiger drove up. I went with him to the Art Feiring home area where our progress was stopped by a liferaft 10 by 20 and 4 feet high in the middle of the road. I told the sheriff to get the Coast Guard to halt shipping until daylight. The lights went out at 1:20 a.m. on that January 30.

I told the sheriff to take me to the Welcome Slough Church where six to eight men had gathered. I asked who would volunteer to go and get the widow out, not knowing if she was alive. LeRoy Wika was the only one to volunteer. We picked up my boots and the sheriff took us down as far as we could go. At that time there was a 40-foot ditch all around the Island which was dug when they built the dikes. Everybody had a bridge to get to and from their houses.

The sheriff dumped us off where the raft blocked the road, and we crossed the bridge and started down the field with the water still up to our knees. We came to the Aegerter farm and when we were about to go over their fence, Freda Aegerter asked who is in my barnyard. We identified ourselves and she said come ahead. She had seen the wife and I flying by earlier. She said her husband and son John had gone down to get Mrs. Olsen out. We continued through the field. Talk about a mess; water up to our knees, telephone lines, trees, stumps, brush and almost everything you might think of in the way.

When we were half way there we passed Mr. Aegerter fighting his way through the debris. Son John had gone on to the Olsen house. We were approximately 300 feet from the house when he hollered at us. We asked if she was alive and he replied I'm talking to her, but she is in shock.

When we got there LeRoy and I knocked the upstairs window out to get her out. It was about six feet from the ground. We heard Mrs. Olsen say you are wrecking my house, the poor woman didn't know what she had gone through. It wasn't very easy to get her out, she was a fair size woman and getting her down to the ground level wasn't easy.

When we got her out of the house the two of us clasped our hands together and carried her between us. We started through the debris, the old guy went ahead of us with a flashlight. When we got tired we set her down on a log and the other guy would relieve one of us. We should have had another guy with us so we could have changed two and two.

It took quite a while to get to Aegerter's bridge. People had started to come and look over this mess. My sister Selma and her husband Harry Olsen were there to meet us. Harry was Bessie Olsen's nephew and they took over her care.

Sheriff Fluckiger said to me, Elroy, I am putting you on guard duty to prevent pilfering at the Olsen house. I said yes I will do it. It was starting to get daylight when I started down through the debris. With daylight came many onlookers on the road across from the Olsen house. About nine o'clock two young guys came and said they were going to look into the house. I told them I was on guard duty and you are not going any farther. One said you can't stop us. So my Norwegian blood started to boil and I grabbed him high on the arm and pinched pretty good. I spun him around a couple of times and said did you hear what I said, I mean it. They called me a bunch of dirty names and took off back up through the debris. That is the thanks you get for being a good samaritan. No more trouble with them. They got me the wrong way, generally I am peaceful and helpful.

Around 10 o'clock Howard Olsen, the widow's son, came and went in to the house. That relieved me. He told me to come into the house. You could not believe what I saw there! This was a two story house with a nook in the kitchen and benches on each side of the table and a radio console toward the window. The console had turned somersault in mid-air and came down in the same place with the legs upwards, unbelievable.

Howard grew up around the Island, he had a car then and we had many good times chasing around. He moved to Kelso and became involved in the Ocean Beach Stage Lines, hauling mail and passengers from Kelso to Long Beach. Back in the house I discovered we could have taken her down the stairs, but you don't have time to investigate when it is an emergency.

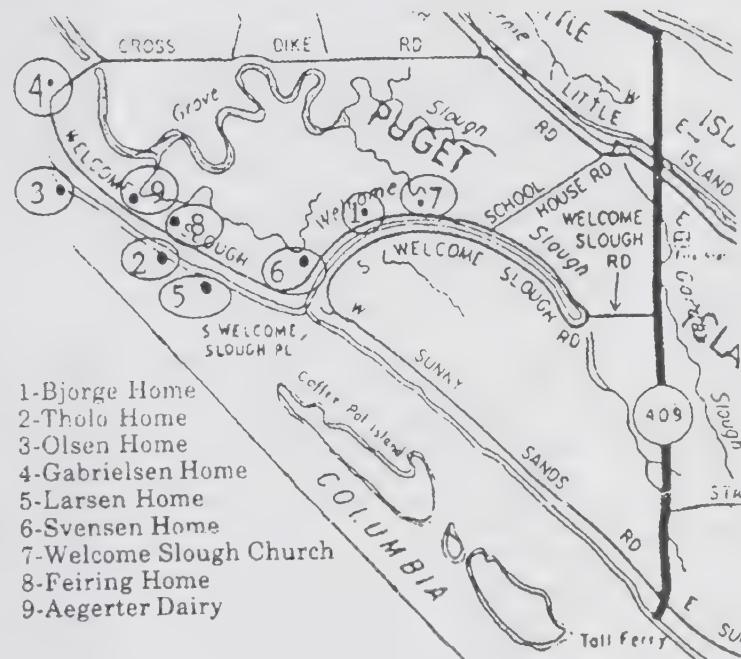
After going back to Aegerter's bridge I walked down the road to where the bachelor lived. You could not believe what I saw there, debris and pieces of wood scattered everywhere. I was told that my son Tom in company with Johnny Blix and Freddy Aegerter were walking in the field when they found the body of Gabrielsen. He never knew what hit him. Another unbelievable thing that

demonstrated the power of the wave was his cast iron bath tub in pieces, the biggest was no more than three foot square.

A drag line had been parked with the boom pointing toward the river. The wall of water hit the crane and pushed it across the road and left it upside down in the ditch on the inside of the dike. The crane owner told me it weighed 65 tons. I take my cap off to the construction outfit who put up the tower as it withstood the force of the wall of water.

I will also say the owners of the crane who had just finished ripraping the river bank to protect the light tower holding the high tension wires across the river did a good job as not one boulder was moved out of place by the wave.

The Charles Ostervold farm



approximately a mile down the river as a crow flies had boulders in their yard as a result of the wave. It was owned by Tom and Cora Irving.

Another wave incident involved an ocean going tug and barge chugging up the river approximately a half mile west of the slide. They hit this wave or water wall which was about 50 feet high. The bow of the tug went skyward and the skipper thought the bow would go over the stern of the tug. It scared him so bad he tied up at the Bradwood timber dock.

After all these happenings I mellowed.

Today (January 29, 2000) it is 35 years since the slide. I am kind of down in the dumps but things will work out. Sitting in my home alone I catch myself talking to myself. I haven't started answering myself so I guess I'm still okay.

Now for a few things about myself, what's happening now. Every establishment I go into in Cathlamet there is someone to call my ornery, trouble or mischief which is better than some names I have been called. The sheriff calls me triple trouble and I tell him you couldn't catch me anyhow. He stomps his foot and takes off. All in all you don't see my name in the police bulletin.

I go to Astoria once a month for my flat top hair cut and to buy dog food. I keep my two sets of hearing aids in a drawer this way I hear what I want to hear. I go down to a restaurant for lunch and some friends are playing crib in a dining room behind Andrew and Steve's Restaurant. They must have heard word from Cathlamet as they say here comes trouble, mischief or ornery.

It's sad to think of the many coffee drinking partners I have lost in the last five years, they have said they retired. I'll never say I retired, just semi-retired.

It is said a cat has nine lives. I've used five of mine. In my 83 years, I fished commercially on the Columbia for 67 years and 45 years in Alaska but don't add them together as I am not quite that old.

I have saved six people from drowning, the first was a neighbor youngster who came to play with my younger brother. At 13 years I was painting my skiff that Kenny Prestegard and I had built. The lad fell overboard out of the warehouse I was working in. I could see him in the water and I dove in and got him on the way down. I took him under

my arm and he fought the 50-60 feet to the float. He is the only one I had to go overboard for. Two are still alive.

The Almighty has been looking out for me, he doesn't want me yet. I have a place up at the mausoleum, next to my wife. I had someone put wall to wall rugs in mine and a stereo. I will go there unless I am lost at sea but I think my seafaring days are over.

People ask me why don't you take a trip. The wife and I were married 58.5 years. She told me if something happens to her take care of the dog she got from the grandsons in 1986. So I am dog sitting. She died in 1997.

I found out since her death I have lots of work to do, washing dishes, washing clothes, dusting, vacuuming, scrubbing floors, etc. I have found out a woman's work is never done.

# Bill Puustinen - Seal Hunter

By Jon Westerholm

Bill Puustinen served as the Oregon state contracted seal hunter on the Columbia River from 1959 to 1970. To my knowledge he was the only person to hold this position in the history of the Oregon Fish

Commission. His immediate superior and administrator of the program was State Commercial Fisheries Director, Bob Schonning.

Bill was the natural choice for the job when the state opened the position. He and his brothers had, for many years previously, hunted for the twenty five dollars per scalp bounty program on seals, in harmony with their Gillnet fishing. They operated out of Svensen Slough in the Prairie and Woody Island Channels and the many connecting waterways, on Cathlamet Bay. They even had at one time a pet seal named "Booziks" that followed them around like a dog.

With his double end Gillnet boat that we called the "Gray Ghost" because it was painted all the same non distinct, natural Gray color, he would "sneak" along the various channels of the Columbia River estuary from Puget Island to the Bar. Usually two or three days before the opening of each fishing season he would leave the dock at daybreak and especially at low water



Bill Puustinen, Astoria, OR

time, concentrate on the Islands and sand bars where the seals liked to haul out. He literally, like a herd of cattle on the range, drove them out of the river and back into the Pacific Ocean.

He carried his 300 Savage deer rifle for long shots and a 22 Winchester semi-automatic, fine sighted, small caliber rifle for close shooting. Even though, as he often pointed out, his major objective was to harass seals and keep them out of the Columbia River and away from the Gillnetters Nets, he had the uncanny ability to hit a small moving target on the surface of the water, out of a bouncing boat. Many a seal paid the "supreme price" for not getting out of his way quick enough.

With the advent of the National Marine Mammal Act his job, of course, came to an end. At age 67 and with his "love" of the river he could have continued this activity, easy, for another twenty years.

He always kept a very accurate log on his sealing activities, for each day, from the preliminary hunt plan, to the weather, to the tide, to each sighting and encounter, and to the many other related observations on the trip. His presence was certainly a plus for the Commercial Fishing Gillnet fleet on the Columbia River and saved many thousands of dollars over the years for the Fishing Industry and Local Economy.



Above-Seal scalps for bounty

Below-Seal damaged salmon



**Did you know?**  
**Seals use their droopy whiskers as motion detectors in food search**

Those luxuriant whiskers found on seals help the mammals find food, a team of German researchers says. Scientists at the Universitat Bonn and the Ruhr-Universitat Bochum say the whiskers are sensitive detectors of motion in the swirling wake left by swimming fish. The researchers reported their findings in the July 6 issue of the journal Science. Although some sea mammals such as dolphins and sperm whales have sonar systems to locate fish, they said, all other marine mammals have well-developed whiskers to help them find fish in murkywater.

—Compiled by Richard L. Hill

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# Minke Whales



## The Minke Whale

The Minke whale is the smallest of the rorquals. The male of the species can grow to a length of 9.8m (32ft) and the female larger at 11m (36ft) and weigh 10 tonnes. Populations in the Southern hemisphere on the average are slightly larger than other areas. Some animals are inquisitive and approach quite closely, but in most cases it is unusual to get a clear view. The Minke can be confused with the Sei, Bryde's, Fin or Northern Bottlenose whale, however, the dive sequence is distinctively different, the head is unscarred and its mouthline is relatively straight.

The Minke whale has a slender streamlined body with a pointed head and often inconspicuous blow. The body is dark grey to black on the back, lightening to white on the belly and undersides of the flippers. There are often areas of light grey on the flanks, one just above and behind the flippers and the other behind the head. Individuals in the Northern hemisphere have a diagonal white band on the upper surface of each flipper. The head of the whale has an overall triangular shape, a single sharp longitudinal ridge along the top and forward of the blowhole and a narrow pointed snout. It has twin blowholes typical of all baleen whales.

Baleen plates are found on each side of the upper jaw. The plates numbering between 230 to 360 are short 20-30cm (8-12in) in length and about 12cm (5in) in width. The colour

of the plates vary from region to region; in the North Atlantic, it tends to be creamy white; in the North Pacific, it is usually creamy yellow; and in the Southern hemisphere it is creamy white at the front and dark grey at the back. Atlantic Minkes usually have more plates than the Pacific Minkes.

The Minke is the smallest of the seven great whales. Its size made it uneconomical to harvest commercially while the larger whales were in abundance. The species became protected with the declaration of the 'Moratorium' on whaling by the International Whaling Commission in 1986. Although its numbers are not endangered it is on the endangered list as a threatened species, and is protected (since 1986) worldwide by international law.

**MORE ONLINE AT:**  
<http://whales.magna.com.au/DISCOVER/MINKE/index.html>

**Dwarf minke whales are vocal; song "surprisingly loud," "complex"**

Researchers at the University of California at Santa Cruz have found that dwarf minke whales are good vocalizers, disputing notions that they rarely make sounds.

Jason Gedamke and Daniel Costa found that minke whales' repertoire



includes a songlike sequence unlike any other whale sound. "It's surprisingly loud and complex, and sounds like it's produced mechanically or synthetically," Gedamke said. "I couldn't believe it came from a whale."

Australian researchers long have heard the vocalization and called it the "guitarfish" or "boingfish" sound, but they had no idea what its source was. Gedamke calls it the "Star Wars" vocalization, because it resembles a laser-gun sound effect. The findings are in the June issue of the Journal of the Acoustic Society of America.

**MORE ONLINE AT:**  
<http://www.ucsc.edu/currents/00-01/06-04/whales.html>  
<http://www.undersea.com.au/MinkeSounds.html>



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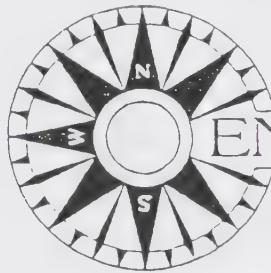
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## Salmon Fry Deaths Skyrocket

At least 1.6 million wild chinook fry died last spring, after being stranded in the gravel by low-water conditions along a 17-mile stretch of the Columbia River, according to reports from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

That estimate of fry mortality, in a section of the river downstream from Priest Rapids Dam, is about 16 times greater than in the previous two years, said Rod Woodin, WDFW Columbia River policy coordinator.

"Drought, together with fluctuations in water levels caused by dam operations, took a heavy toll on emerging mid-Columbia fall chinook salmon fry this year," said Woodin. "How those losses will be reflected in adult returns three, and four years from now remains to be seen."

Woodin said low-water conditions caused by this year's drought amplified the effect of fluctuations in water levels resulting from dam operations.

"Actually, fluctuations in water levels from dam operations were much less than in previous years," Woodin said. "The problem is that variation during a low-water year de-waters a much greater area than when the river is at a normal level."

Since 1999, estimates of fry mortality on 17 miles of the Columbia River below Priest Rapids Dam have been an integral part of the Hanford Reach Juvenile Fall Chinook Protection Program, an interjurisdictional flow-management and monitoring effort involving WDFW, federal natural resource agencies, area treaty tribes and local dam operators.

As in the past two years, this

year's monitoring effort was conducted in spring when emerging salmon fry are most susceptible to fluctuations in water levels. This year, technicians walked the riverbanks between April 1 and June 10 to locate stranded fish.

When water levels drop, they can find thousands of fry left high and dry along the riverbank or stranded in shallow pools where the water temperature often reaches lethal levels, said Paul Hoffarth, WDFW's lead biologist on the project.

"The monitoring crews try to salvage as many of them as they can, but that usually amounts to a small fraction of what's there," Hoffarth said.

Hoffarth noted that the loss of 1.6 million fry in the monitored area represents about 7 percent of the year's total estimated fall chinook fry production. But that may account for only a small portion of the fry mortalities, he said. The Hanford Reach supports the largest wild fall chinook population in the main stem Columbia River and is a primary contributor to sport, commercial and tribal fisheries.

"These estimates do not account for fry that die elsewhere in the 51-mile Hanford Reach or further down river," Hoffarth said. "This is clearly a tough year for juvenile fall chinook on the mid-Columbia River."

Soaring August temperatures, combined with below normal precipitation, have exacerbated extremely dry conditions throughout the state. In Central Washington, precipitation is just 3 percent of average for the month and only 75 percent for the year.



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# The Columbia River Duckboat

By Harry Nelson

*With the passage of time comes change. But with some we lose a tradition, a culture or a heritage. In the latter, I would like to tell you a little about the duck boat as I experienced the change.*

Duck hunting has existed for well over a century in the lower Columbia River estuary. Russian Island near Svensen Oregon has been a waterfowl wintering stop-over for centuries. It still is, under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Reserve. Access to the hunter is and has been by water only, hence the need for a suitable boat.

## Designed Locally

The region had a supply of skilled boat carpenters working for the salmon canneries and boat yards. Construction and maintenance for gill net boats, cannery tenders and seine launches required a year-round work force. Some of these fellows were duck hunters and built their own boats for hunting. Soon others learned of their boats and became customers. A few whom I knew were Charlie Bergman, Oscar Hendrickson, Pete Welsh and Ernie Gustin. This was in the mid 30's when I started hunting. My Dad, Oscar and his two brothers, Charlie and August were ardent hunters. I enjoyed many a hunt with all three.

Dad, August and I had a boat of flat bottom construction and Charlie had a round bottom made by Bergman. The boats were usually about 10' in length, low freeboard, oak stems and decked with an open cockpit surrounded by a raised coaming. Prime, old growth fir or spruce was the norm. The flat bottom's sides were full width boards, that is, no seams. The round bottoms were shaped using oak ribs and individual planking. They were fitted so well that a few days of preseason soaking made them watertight without a need for caulking. I must add, the round bottomed boats were a beautiful example of fine design and craftsmanship.

## Self Contained Blind

Brackets were installed around the coaming to support upright stakes with mesh webbing through which natural grass was woven, "note the picture". By crouching, one could obtain good concealment. If handy, clumps of mud and grass could be uprooted and placed on the deck for blending with the area.

## Decoys

Hand carved decoys made from cedar-split, hollowed out and re-assembled were the norm. Usually 24 to 36 was adequate. The aforementioned carpenters also made decoys in limited numbers, mostly for themselves. Dad and I had 75 Bergmans between us. In later years, Antique dealers would pay dearly for one of them. Unfortunately, we sold them before the value became apparent. A 12' to 18' heavy tan barked seine twine with 6 to 8 ounces of lead weight was used for anchoring.

## Oar Power

Fairly light weight oars of 5 1/2 to 6 feet in length were fashioned from fir or spruce. One did not use the normal method of rowing by facing backwards and pulling on the oar. Straddling a small wooden stool allowed one to face forward (bow) with their forelegs folded under them. One shoved forward with the oar for the power stroke rather than pulling towards one's self. One might judge a

fellow hunter by the way he "feathered" his oar on the return stroke. There should be no "crabs". This method allowed the hunter to see where he was headed. It was ideal for jump shooting. That is, sneaking up on the birds by rowing or assisted by the "blind" which acted as a sail. This was very productive when the tide raised to within 12"-15" of the tops of the grasses. The birds tended to fly into the islands from the main river channel to feed on the numerous floating seeds.

## Knowing Tides a Must

The Islands were subject to high and low tides every six hours. Accordingly, this determined where and when you would lay out your decoys. Some of the sloughs and potholes had sufficient water at all stages of tide and some not. You could be standing on exposed ground at low tide, but sitting in your boat after the flood-tide had covered the land. Southwest blows would sometimes develop without a great deal of warning. One had to always be alert to changes in the weather pattern. Especially if the tide was on the flood period. You could lose the protection of the high banks in the sloughs.



## Guns and Ammo

With the passage of a century of time, the effects of change have been quite noticeable in the sport of waterfowl gunning. Especially so in it's firepower.

The two leading arms makers were Winchester and Remington. For the waterfowler, Winchester first introduced the model 97 (1897). It was a six shot, magazine fed repeater. The hammer was exposed, as were the receiver and ejector parts on the top. When pumping a new shell into the chamber, the action took place right in front of your face. A distraction no doubt, but tolerated.

The now famous Winchester Model 12 (1912) followed and was an instant success over the model 97. It out-sold other makes for decades. The 12 eventually succumbed to manufacturing costs and competition. Neither have been made for years but they can still be found in attics and basements and gun dealers. The gun had good balance, smooth lines, a great feel and reliability. I still have mine. It's in good shape except for the bluing which is all but gone in some places. A good resting spot for rust, one must be sure to clean and oil it after each day out in the field.

Remington had it's showpiece of the time in the Model 10 (1910). It was similar to the 12 except it fed and ejected from the underside. I shot one for a number of years. It didn't have the feel or balance of the 12. It too was phased out.

On the autoloaders was the legendary Browning A-5. I shot one in my later hunting years. I'll never forget my first shot. I was used to pulling back on the slide forearm grip

of the Model 12 to pump a new shell into the chamber. I couldn't budge it! Was it frozen? A few rounds later, I became adjusted to the "auto" part.

Popular loads of the time were Peters high velocity 2 3/4", #4-#6 lead shot. They were the original blue paper shells. The box had a picture of a flying mallard drake on the front panel. Western Super X, Remington Arrow Express and Nitro Express were all popular loads and for practical purposes were equal in quality and price. The latter were red cases and nontoxic loads hadn't been hatched yet. Do you recall the complaining by some of the hunters when non-toxic loads first appeared? If you missed the bird, blame it on the load. The shooter never misses. Perhaps it gave some comfort to his ego. Recent studies by Remington show today's non-toxic loads out perform some of the lead loads. Hawthorne brand shotshells were available from Montgomery Ward by mail order. My first box of Peters High Velocity cost me \$1.00 for a box of 25. There was an off-brand named Ajax (black paper) that could be had for 90 cents. 10% was quite a savings in those days and I occasionally bought a box. The shell had a spiral on it's brass, that's why I remembered it.

## Boat Styles Began to Change

Following World War II, a noticeable use of the outboard motor began. This required changing the pointed stern to square. Aluminum and fiberglass materials replaced the wood construction. Motors of up to 35 horse power became common. Occasionally the grandson of an old-timer has kept one of the old wooden boats for sentimental reasons. He may even use it once in a while. It's hard to give up family tradition. Despite the convenience of the safer and motorized boats. I spent many great hours under both methods.

In the later years, I must admit that it was preferable to return to the float shack in five minutes rather than thirty. Especially if you were bucking a rising wind and tide.

## More Old Timers

Here are some more names of old timers you may recall: Ron Aspen, Bill Bergman, Howard and Oliver Dunsmoor, Frank Hoagland, Jimmy Lovell, Carl Moberg, John North, Henry Pice, Johan Peterson, Bill Reed, John Steele, Jalmar Wilson, Peterson and Hoagland served as early presidents of Clatsop County Duck Hunters Association in Astoria. These are a sampling for you to recall, they were the ones I knew.

I had the good fortune to accompany my uncle August and share the "comforts" of Henry's float on weekends of the season. During the salmon season, Henry used the float for his Jim Crow seine operation for "combine." It was officially known as Columbia River Packers Association, and then Bumble Bee.

In closing, I'd like to share with you some treasured memories of my duck hunts above Tongue Point, Astoria, as a youth: the float was mostly unfinished, raw framing... to cut down on the draft, heavy cardboard was nailed to the studs... the roof was rounded and covered with tar paper... bedtime found me covered in layers of wool blankets, listening to raindrops on the roof and the whistling of the wind through the cracks... the bedspring was supported by 2 fishboxes with C.R.P.A. stenciled on the sides...

Were these the good times? For me-yes, that's why I remember; and that's the way it was back then.

# FISHING VESSEL FATALITY CAUSES AND A MAN OVERBOARD



## FISHING VESSEL FATALITY CAUSES AND A MAN OVERBOARD

By Jerry Dzigan, Director, Alaska Marine Safety Education Association

When one thinks of the most dangerous waters in the United States and the most prevalent cause of death for commercial fishermen, capsizing in the Bering Sea would most likely come to mind. Major casualties in Alaska such as the "A" boats, the Aleutian Enterprise, and most recently the Arctic Rose, have underscored the risks involved with fishing in Alaska.

However, in a survey of U.S. Coast Guard fishing vessel casualties in the six-year period from 1995 to 2000, the major cause of fishing fatalities was found not to be from boats capsizing, flooding, grounding or catching fire. The vessels involved in the largest segment of commercial fishing fatalities were, in fact, intact. Surprisingly, almost a third of all fishing related deaths during this period, 122 out of a total of 380, were due to man overboard events—35 percent occurring in the Gulf of Mexico. These figures show that man overboard events in the Gulf of Mexico were the leading cause of fatalities in the last six years in the U.S. fishing industry, accounting for 11 percent of all fishing fatalities. The second leading cause of fishing related deaths in the U.S. were capsizing events in Alaska, accounting for 7 percent of all fatalities.

The Coast Guard analysis includes only fishing related fatalities from heart attacks or other natural causes, alcohol or drug overdoses, suicides or other unknowns are not included. Some fatalities from "unknown" causes were probably due to either sinking or capsizing since the entire vessel was lost. However, the unknowns were few in number and would have altered the results by only a few percentage points.

*The following table displays the leading causes of fishing vessel fatalities from 1995 through 2000.*

CAUSE	FATALITIES
MAN OVERBOARD	122
SINKING	16
CAPSIZING	74
DECK-RELATED INJURY	31
COLLISION	12
DIVER RELATED	17
FIRE	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>

Since man overboard events are such a significant hazard to commercial fishermen, prevention steps and procedures should be emphasized.

Safe deck work practices are of paramount importance. Non-slip surfaces must be maintained. Fatigue may also be a factor in man overboard incidents and work schedules should be adjusted to make the most of rest periods. Training crews to effectively respond to a man overboard emergency should be a part of every fishing vessel's monthly emergency drill. Man overboard alarms are available on the market that set off an alarm in the wheelhouse when the wearer of the sending unit falls in the water.

Most importantly, life jackets should be worn when on deck. USCG approved or unapproved life jackets come in a variety of styles, including vests, suspenders, belt pouches and more traditional styles. "It is too bulky to work in," is no longer an excuse for not wearing a life jacket because there is a design for almost any working situation. In the last six years at least 122 fishermen would have had a better chance had they been wearing one.

**Which is the best life jacket?  
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## NEW VIDEO FROM THE ARCTIC ROSE

On the 18th of August, the Coast Guard returned to the site of the sinking of the Arctic Rose in the Bering Sea, in order to gather more information in their attempts to determine what caused her to go down on that fateful morning in early April. In July, they had traveled to the site to deploy a submersible unit to gather video footage of the vessel, but after only 12 minutes of taping, the unit became entangled in some of the Arctic Rose's cables and the remote unit was lost.

At the conclusion of investigative hearings that resumed in Seattle, from August 28th to the 30th, the Coast Guard allowed members of the family of those lost in the sinking to view the new video, containing 45 minutes of new footage, after which the media was then allowed to view the video.

New clues in the video show a sand pile aft of the vessel, indicating she settled stern first into the sea floor; a rudder that is hard to port; apparent crab line wrapped around the propeller, with the line going underneath the rudder and then back up towards the deck of the ship; and an open water-tight door between the processing area and the trawl deck. No visible damage to the hull or the propeller shaft is apparent.

Captain Ron Morris, Chairman of the Marine Board for the Investigation of the Arctic Rose, says that while this new video provided other significant clues to the sinking, such as the open water-tight door, the line around the prop, and the rudder hard to port, it is still "hard to say why" she sank.

"While we have many new clues, it is still far from conclusive as to why the Arctic Rose sank," said Morris. "Our next step is to get back together with some of the witnesses and show them the video. We hope they can provide us with additional information that can help our investigation as they view the video."

Captain Morris added that the investigation will continue sometime in October with the interviews of the witnesses and should conclude by April 2002.



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# Virus Is Killing Thousands of Salmon

Sep 07, 2001

By Andrew C. Revkin

A virus that kills Atlantic salmon but is harmless to people is spreading in fish farms in eastern Maine, forcing the destruction of hundreds of thousands of valuable fish and threatening endangered wild salmon, state and federal officials say.

The disease was first detected in the 1980's in Norwegian and Scottish fish farms, then appeared in New Brunswick fish pens in 1996 and crossed the border into Cobscook Bay in Maine in March.

The discovery in recent days of several more infected fish in pens in the bay prompted state officials on Wednesday to impose emergency rules barring boats from leaving infected areas and requiring fish farmers to notify officials immediately when an infected fish was found. Infected fish and fish exposed to them must be removed and killed, although some may still be sent to market.

The Boston Globe reported the restrictions yesterday.

The highly contagious disease, infectious salmon anemia, affects a fish's kidneys and circulatory system. It causes the fish to bleed internally and usually die. Much remains unknown about how the virus spreads, although it is known to move in the water and from fish to fish in crowded pens. Juvenile and adult fish are affected.

The anemia has forced the destruction of millions of fish in Europe and Canada in recent years as fish farmers on both sides of the Atlantic have tried to contain its spread. Maine fish farmers have killed more than 900,000 fish since March, state officials said yesterday.

Several fisheries experts said that in the countries where the disease was most established, close surveillance had prevented large outbreaks. They said it was likely to be kept at bay in Maine as well.

In the short run, though, it could be a costly blow to a Maine enterprise that had grown in a decade from nearly nothing to an industry worth \$100 million a year, state officials and aquaculture companies said.

Fish that have reached their adult size of 8 to 10 pounds can still be sold, cutting the financial losses somewhat. So far, state and industry officials said they had not been able to estimate the economic cost of fighting the virus.

SEP 10, 2001 Salmon Farm Polluters  
To the Editor:

Re "Virus Is Killing Thousands of Salmon" (news article, Sept. 7):

A crucial part of the Maine salmon industry story is that fish farms have been polluting Maine's coastal waters for more than a decade in violation of federal environmental law.

Over the years, salmon farms have released into the ocean a toxic chemical used to kill parasites; thousands of tons of concentrated fish waste; blood from slaughtered salmon; excess feed, which contains pigment to artificially color the salmon's flesh pink and can contain ingredients like antibiotics and waste.

All this has been done without waste discharge permits required by the federal Clean Water Act.

Now, you report, the multinational corporations that grow salmon want federal handouts when their fish die of disease. They have it backward. They should compensate the people of Maine for fouling the environment for so long.

DAVID A. NICHOLAS Boston

The writer is a senior attorney at the National Environmental Law Center.

# Ocean Iron Boom

*Extra iron in coastal waters is linked to more and larger plankton, which feeds more small fish, which feed booming salmon runs*

Increased iron in the ocean may be contributing to the enormous runs of salmon returning to the Columbia River Basin and other Northwest rivers.

Scientists have long known that oceans teem with life during most periods of upwelling, when water surges up from the ocean floor. That water, which has passed over the ocean floor's "compost zone" of decaying organic matter, is rich in nitrates, phosphates and other nutrients that plankton need. When the nutrient-rich water hits the zone where light penetrates—30 feet to 150 feet below the surface—phytoplankton populations often explode.

Phytoplankton, microscopic floating algae, are eaten by zooplankton, mostly tiny crustaceans.

Zooplankton are the main food of young salmon that have just entered the ocean from rivers and streams. Adult salmon then eat herring, smelt, anchovies and other small fish that feed on zooplankton.

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"We used to think in coastal oceans it was just macronutrients that brought plankton blooms," said Mark Abbott, dean of Oregon State University's College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences. "Now, more and more work is showing that iron is more important than we thought. It's one of most exciting stories that has emerged in recent biological oceanography."

OSU researchers and colleagues from the University of North Carolina and the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory in New York have a five-year, \$9 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study the ocean off Oregon.

## Japanese boat sinks S. Korean trawler operating illegally

A Japanese patrol boat ran into and sank a South Korean trawler that was fleeing after being caught fishing in Japanese waters towards the end of August.

All four South Korean crew members fell off the boat after the collision but were rescued by another South Korean boat. There were no serious injuries.

The trawler was operating illegally in an exclusive Japanese area and was ordered by the patrol boat to stop, but the fishing boat fled instead. The two craft collided when the trawler tried to cross in front of the pursuing patrol boat in an evasive maneuver. The South Korean crew denied any knowledge of wrongdoing.

# A Wave Goodbye

## Andrew J. Marinovich Fisherman, 94

Andrew J. Marinovich, 94, of Clifton, died Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, in Astoria.

Mr. Marinovich was born Dec. 21, 1906, in Clifton to Jack and Winifred Kuljis Marinovich. He was raised in Clifton, where he was educated in a one-room schoolhouse.

Mr. Marinovich started fishing with his father at age 12. When he was 20, he went to San Pedro, Calif., where his mother lived, and worked in a tuna cannery for two years. He returned to Clifton to marry and resume fishing.

He married Katie Gzadvich in December 1929 in Astoria and they established a home in Clifton. She died in 1990.

He served in the Coast Guard Auxiliary during World War II.

Mr. Marinovich became a station man and fish receiver in 1965 for the Clifton Station. He ran the pickup boat "Duke," and operated from Clifton to Puget Island, Birney Slough, Welcome Slough, Little Island, Skamowa (Wash.), Driskoll Slough and Westport. Mr. Marinovich seined in Port Moller and Kodiak, Alaska, and gillnetted in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

He was a member of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church and attended chapel school and Catechism in the

chapel railroad car that ran from community to community in the early 1900s. He served on the Clifton School Board and helped maintain the water district for the community. He was a member of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union and the Alaska Fishermen's Union.

Mr. Marinovich is survived by a son, Jack Marinovich of Astoria; a daughter, Anna Marie Keyser of Warrenton; a daughter-in-law, Georgia Marinovich of Astoria; a sister, Katie Kenny of St. Louis, Mo.; four grandsons and their spouses, Jack and Kari Marinovich Jr. of Lake Oswego, Andrew Marinovich of Portland and Dan and Stephanie Keyser and Mark Keyser, all of Astoria; and four great-grandchildren, Lindsey Ryder and Taylor Keyser and Cole Keyser, all of Astoria and Anthony Marinovich of Lake Oswego.

## Ervin Willard Lentz Commercial fisherman, 76

Ervin Willard Lentz, 76, of Ocean Park, Wash., died Saturday, May 26 2001, in Ocean Park.

Mr. Lentz was born Aug. 16 1924, to George and Clytie Linden Lentz. The family moved to Ridgefield, Wash., where he graduated from high school in 1942.

Throughout his working career, Mr. Lentz was on or near the water. He came from a family of fishermen and had been born on a boat house on the Columbia River slough near St. Helens. He began fishing the Columbia River in high school.

He joined the U.S. Navy during World War II and served as a tug boat operator with the Seabees in the South Pacific. He returned to Ridgefield after the war and fished commercially on the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and in Kenai, Alaska, until retiring. He moved to Ocean Park in 1994.

Mr. Lentz enjoyed family gettogethers, clamping, traveling and reading and following history. His family will remember him as a loving husband, father and grandfather, a "good honest man" who was thoughtful and plain spoken.

He married Flora Rine on July 11, 1948, and would have celebrated 53 years of marriage this summer. She survives. In addition to his wife, Mr. Lentz is survived by a son, Gary Lentz Sr. of Vancouver, Wash.; two daughters, Georgiana McNees and Linda Uskoski, both of Vancouver; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. A grandson died in 1992.

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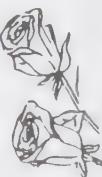


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## Duane 'Pinky' Ostling Fisherman, 55

Duane "Pinky" Anton Ostling, 55, of Cathlamet, Wash., died Sunday, Oct. 14, 2001, in Cathlamet.

Mr. Ostling was born Nov. 9, 1945 in Longview, Wash., to Anton and Bernice Smith Ostling. He attended Cathlamet schools and was a lifelong resident of Cathlamet and Puget Island, Wash.

On May 16, 1970 he married Sherry Emery in Skamokawa, Wash.

A commercial fisherman from the age of 15, Mr. Ostling fished Alaska, Willapa Bay and the Columbia River and crabbed in the Pacific Ocean. He was a member of Salmon for All, the Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association, the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, the Cathlamet Men's Poker Club and the Northwest Gillnetters.

Family members said Mr. Ostling liked sportfishing, hunting, trapshooting, trips to Reno and playing cards with friends. He enjoyed his family and special friends Ashley and Kelsey.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Ostling is survived by his father, Anton Ostling of Puget Island; his in-laws, Claude and Jackie Emery Russell of Cathlamet; his brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Barbara Ostling of Kenai, Alaska; two sisters, Judy Ostling of Puget Island and Toni Sue Ostling of Skamokawa; two brothers-in-law, Gary Emery of Kelso, Wash., and Johnnie Ray Anderson of Puget Island; two sons, Terry Ray and Jeff Ostling, both of Cathlamet; a daughter, Tracy Lynn Ostling of Cathlamet; and two nieces. A brother, Jim Smith, and a nephew, Shawn Emery, died earlier.

## David M. 'Dave' Wullger Outdoorsman, 77

David M. "Dave" Wullger, 77, of Libby, Mont., died Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2001, in Libby.

Mr. Wullger was born July 14, 1924, in Astoria to Milison "Mike" and Esther Johnson Wullger.

Mr. Wullger attended Battle Creek School in Youngs River and graduated from Astoria High School in 1942. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 and was a gunnery instructor. He returned to Astoria in 1946. In 1947, he started W & W Logging Company with John Warila, with whom he also co-owned Sunset Crushed Rock. Mr. Wullger also commercial fished on the Columbia River and in Kenai, Alaska.

In 1992, he moved to Montana where he worked for a short time building roads for the U.S. Forest Service. He enjoyed

living and hunting in the mountains of Montana. He taught classes on hunter safety. He was a fan of school sports, family members say, and his companies provided volunteer work and materials for local ball fields.

Mr. Wullger married Myrna Langton Nov. 26, 1994. She survives in Libby.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Wullger is survived by a daughter, Patricia Laine of Portland; three sons and daughters-in-law, David "Butch" and Roma Wullger of Kent, Wash., Mike and Dani Wullger of Chinook, Wash., and Darin and Laureen Wullger of Astoria; eight grandchildren, Tiffany George, Lindsay Johnson and Kelsey, Scott and Andy Wullger, all of Astoria, Trevor Lane of Beavercreek, Ohio, Wyatt and Cooper Wullger, both of Chinook; and four greatgrandchildren, Jennifer George, Tucker Laine, Stacey Wullger and Lars Wullger.

## Nicholas F. Zorich Fisherman, 89

Nicholas F. Zorich, 89, of Warrenton, died Thursday, Oct. 18, 2001, in Astoria.

Mr. Zorich was born Oct. 4, 1912 in Seattle to Anton and Lucy Zitz Zorich.

In 1917, his family moved to Ketchikan, Ala., and lived there until 1946.

He married Marguerite Baker in 1939 in Seattle. She survives, living in Warrenton.

Mr. Zorich was a commercial fisherman and owned and operated his own fishing vessel. In the summer of 1946, he moved to the Astoria area, residing in Olney. He lived in Olney until 1964 when he moved to Astoria.

Family member say Mr. Zorich enjoyed gardening.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by six sons, Nicholas Zorich Jr. of Tigard, John Zorich of Astoria, William Zorich of Battle Ground, Wash., Stephen Zorich of Warrenton, Jerry Zorich of Portland, Philip Zorich of Portland; a brother, Vincent Zorich of Ketchikan; three

sisters, Zora Hoyt and Lucy Smith, both of Seattle, Katherine Zorich of Portland; 13 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.

## Robert Andrew Nelson Tugboat Captain and Fisherman, 60

Robert (Bobby) Andrew Nelson, 60, died on November 25, 2000 at his home in Brush Prairie, Washington.

Mr. Nelson was born on September 26, 1940 in Astoria, Oregon to Arthur and Ina Nelson. He was raised in Astoria and graduated from Astoria High School in 1959.

Mr. Nelson started gillnet fishing on the Columbia River with his father and grandfather at nine years old and had fished ever since. He owned and operated several commercial fishing vessels and later worked as a tugboat captain for many years. He was employed by Shaver Transportation Company of Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Nelson was an avid fisherman and hunter. He loved life and people. His sense of humor and smile will be missed by his family and friends.

Mr. Nelson married Charlene Heikka Nelson on May 18, 1974.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Nelson is survived by daughters Nelise and Nelea Nelson of Brush Prairie, WA, a daughter and son-in-law Amy and Allen Foster of Jewell, OR, a daughter Cindy Nelson of Jewell, OR, and a son and daughter-in-law, Dean and Gretchen Nelson of Astoria and four grandchildren. A brother, Wally Nelson, died in 1993.

## Clara Evina Miles Cook, 95

Clara Evina Miles, 95, of La Center, Wash., died Friday, Oct. 30, 2001, in Woodland, Wash.

Mrs. Miles was born Aug. 10, 1906, in Fosston, Minn., to Sondre and Nathalia



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Afseth Halvorsen. She was one of five girls. Her father died when she was 7 years old. Five years after his death, the family moved to Astoria.

Mrs. Miles graduated from Astoria High School in 1924 and obtained a teaching certificate. When she was 19, her mother died. The following week, Mrs. Miles began teaching at the Walluski Country School near Olney. For two years, she taught first through eighth grade.

She married Charles Roscoe Miles in September 1927. He died in 1958.

Mrs. Miles was active in St. Mary, Star of the Sea School Parents' Club from 1946 to 1968. She was active at St. Mary's Catholic Church from 1945 to 1970, where she was the first general chairman of the Altar Society Circle.

From 1930 to 1950, Mrs. Miles worked as a cook on Kaboth Seining Grounds where her husband operated the fishing grounds for Columbia River Packers Association. She worked for Miles Grocery for one year, worked as a secretary for the Texaco Oil Company and for the Bob Anderson law firm. She also worked at Portland General Electric as a cook, retiring in 1973.

Mrs. Miles was active in the Daughters of Norway Lodge and attended Ridgefield Nazarene Church. She was a member of a writing club and wrote an

autobiography, "Life is a Celebration." The book was published prior to her 90th birthday and a copy will be donated to the Astoria Public Library. Family members say she enjoyed cooking, sewing, writing, traveling, sport fishing, boating and Bible study. Mrs. Miles' house was open to those needing a home, family members say.

She is survived by three daughters and two sons-in-law, Maureen and Gerald Minsker of La Center, Joy and Richard McGavock of Dallas, and Mary Carol Feldman of Vancouver, Wash.; a son and daughter-in-law, Ross and Beverly Miles of La Center; a sister-in-law, Hope Miles Moberg of Astoria; her caregiver, Geraldine Schutt; 10 grandchildren; 14 greatgrandchildren; and three great-greatgrandchildren. Two great-grandsons, Jesse Perkins and Colby McGavock, died earlier.

### Lawrence 'Duke' Edward Quigley Skipper, 81

Lawrence "Duke" Edward Quigley, 81, a lifelong resident of Cathlamet, Wash., died Monday, Nov. 5, 2001, in Longview, Wash.

Mr. Quigley was born Dec. 13, 1919, in Cathlamet to Leonard and Della Souvenir Quigley. He married Winnie Bozanich in Longview July 5, 1952. She survives,

living in Cathlamet.

Mr. Quigley was a commercial fisherman on the Columbia River for many years. For more than 30 years, he worked for Crown Zellerbach as skipper of the tugboat Constance J. He also worked as a safety and construction supervisor for Crown Zellerbach and retired after 43 years.

Mr. Quigley served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945 and took part in the Invasion of Normandy.

He was a member of the Elochoman Grange, Salmon for All, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Skyline Golf Course.

Family members say he enjoyed golfing, especially with his "golf buddies," sportfishing and duck hunting and truly enjoyed the outdoors and spending time with his family.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard "Dick" and Jennifer Quigley of Astoria and Gary and Jamie Quigley of Cathlamet; three sisters, LaRene "Teeter" Wegdhal of Cathlamet, Beryl Benton of Camas, Wash., and Delores Cochran of Cathlamet; five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. His brothers, Leonard, Frank and Kenny Quigley and sisters, Bethina Foster, Marie Varin, Leona Heywood and Pat Good all died earlier.



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## Tags from 15 Steller pups discovered in killer whale

*Researcher says transient pod of orcas may depend on Stellers for a quarter of their diet*

Theories about the declining Steller sea lions abound after an independent study of killer whales in Prince William Sound turned up a dead whale with 15 tags belonging to Steller pups.

The carcass that contained the Steller a tags was discovered in 1992, but news of a the tags being found didn't come to light until recently. The discovery opens a new angle in the relationship between killer whales and the declining Stellers.

Did whales decimate the western population of Stellers? "It's very unlikely that these animals are what's taken the population of sea lions down," says Craig Matkin, a research scientist with North Gulf Oceanic Society of Homer, Alaska. "But they could be responsible for delaying the recovery of the sea

lions." Matkin has been studying orcas for 15 years and recently released a paper that contains clues to their predatory effects on the lions.

Matkin found, for instance, two distinct populations: a resident pod of fish-eating whales and a transient, carnivorous population of about 150 animals that frequents the Gulf of Alaska. "It's hard for fishermen to believe, but the killer whales eating fish off the longliners' hooks and near the trawls aren't the ones eating the sea lions."

Matkin says that the transient pod may depend on sea lions for up to a quarter of its fodder, and that there has been no intermingling of the pods.

In March, Matkin worked on proposals to study the genetics and interrelationship between the whales and sea lions west of Kodiak Island and the Aleutian Islands. Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens has obtained \$43 million in Congressional funds for research into why Stellers are disappearing.

—Charlie Ess



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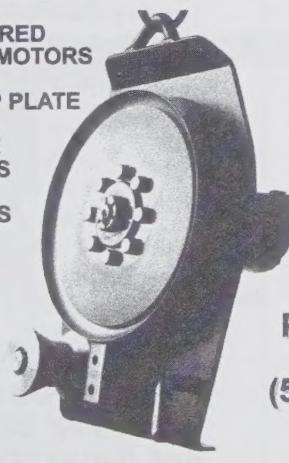
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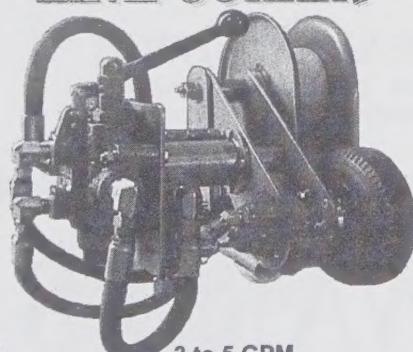
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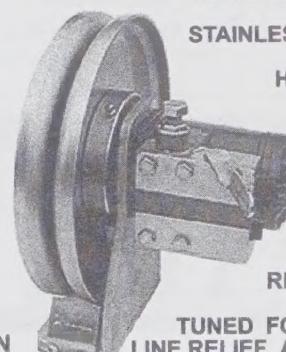
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# Fishers launch new lawsuit against Corps

PORTLAND—11/10/01—Crab fishermen have sued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers again, claiming dredge spoils dumped at the mouth of the Columbia River are still causing high seas that are a hazard to navigation.

In addition to dredge spoils, at issue now is how the seas are measured. The crab fishermen allege the Corps violated a 1998 agreement that dredge spoils dumped at a place known as Site E near the end of the North Jetty would not cause waves to increase in height by more than 10 percent.

About a month ago, the Corps began using a new model for measuring wave amplification.

"They are trying to change the criteria rather than solve the problem" said Dale Beasley, an Ilwaco, Wash., crab fisherman and president of the Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association. "The problem is they are gambling with individuals' lives. They're betting the waves take those mounds down before anyone else dies. I'm not willing to take that bet."

Three people died over Labor Day weekend when two pleasure boats capsized in rough waters in the area. On

Aug. 7, the crab fishing boat Miss Brittany capsized, and two other people died.

Pressed by members of Congress from Oregon and Washington, the Corps and the U.S. Coast Guard began reviewing whether the dredge spoils contributed to the capsizing of the Miss Brittany. Those investigations are still under way.

Corps spokeswoman Heidi Helwig said the change in models was made in response to new technology, and independent of the Site E issue. Helwig said while the old model overestimated conditions and showed only one wave in each snapshot of time, the new model shows a series of waves and frequencies.

The 1998 agreement with the crab fishermen was made using data from the old model.

Helwig could not speculate on whether standards for wave amplification reflected in the new model are different from what fishermen out on the water expect and experience.

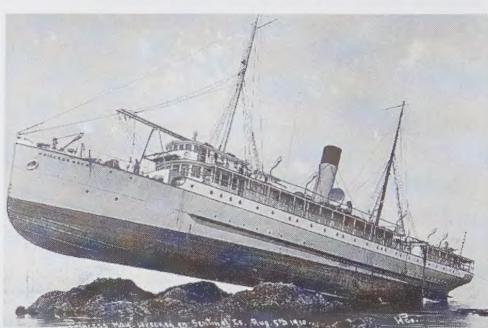
The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court by the CRCFA, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and the Institute for Fisheries Resources.

Helwig did not know whether the 1998

agreement outlined a procedure for a change in measurement techniques, and said she could not comment further on the pending litigation. She acknowledged the Corps dumps material dredged during regular maintenance at the site but has not done so since August.

After the Miss Brittany capsizing, the Corps began removing dredge spoils from the site, but it remains too high under terms of the agreement, Beasley said.

The corps removed an estimated 193,000 cubic yards from the area after the Miss Brittany incident, but some say at least a half-million cubic yards must be removed before the mounds are at an acceptable level.



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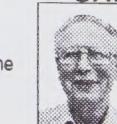
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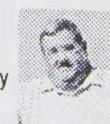
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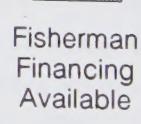
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## Booming lobster fishery defies explanation

*Record landings that are reaching unheard-of levels bring flush times to Maine, but no one knows why*

VINALHAVEN, Maine—Never before in Maine's long memory has there been a lobster boom like this one.

Year after year lately, the state's lobster landings have increased to unheard-of heights, even as the levels of many fish stocks remain miserably low. The latest figures released this spring put last year's catch at a record 56.7 million pounds, about 20 million pounds over the 100-year average and nearly triple the take of 15 years ago.

"We keep saying, 'It can't go any higher than this,' and the next year, darned if it doesn't go up another million pounds," said Pat White, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association.

Something is going right, but no one claims to know for sure what it is.

What is clear, though, is that these are exceptionally flush times for the rubber-booted, oilskin-suited lobstermen of Maine. More than ever, the state's pine-pointed, rock-rounded coast is dotted by the bright confetti of orange and yellow and chartreuse lobster buoys—more than 2 million in all.

On Vinalhaven Island, home to 1,200 in the heart of lobster country, many a shiny new pickup plies the roads, many a bright new workhorse boat plies the harbor. Island schoolchildren are likelier these days to sport the latest L.L. Bean fashions. And their lobstering parents are not only better off but even a little hip: A new "Bachelor Lobstermen of Maine" calendar sold out within days last year.

### A Rare Success Story

Virtually everyone from the biologists to the old-time fishermen expects the catches to drop again. For now, Maine lobstermen are enjoying that rarest of modern maritime tales: a fisheries success story.

"The lobster is perhaps one of the only species that's been intensively fished for 150 years and is doing better today than ever," said Bob Steneck, a professor at the University of Maine who is a lobster expert.

That raises an urgent question: How to keep it that way?

The answer from a veteran Vinalhaven lobsterman such as Walter Day is simple: Just let us do what we've been doing, and otherwise let us alone.

—Carey Goldberg

## Miss Oregon

Margaret (Margie) E. Huhta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Huhta of the Knappa-Svensen won the Miss Oregon title for 1969. Margie graduated from Knappa High School in 1966. She went on to become Queen of the Astoria Regatta that summer.

Note: in 2001, Miss Oregon is Miss USA.



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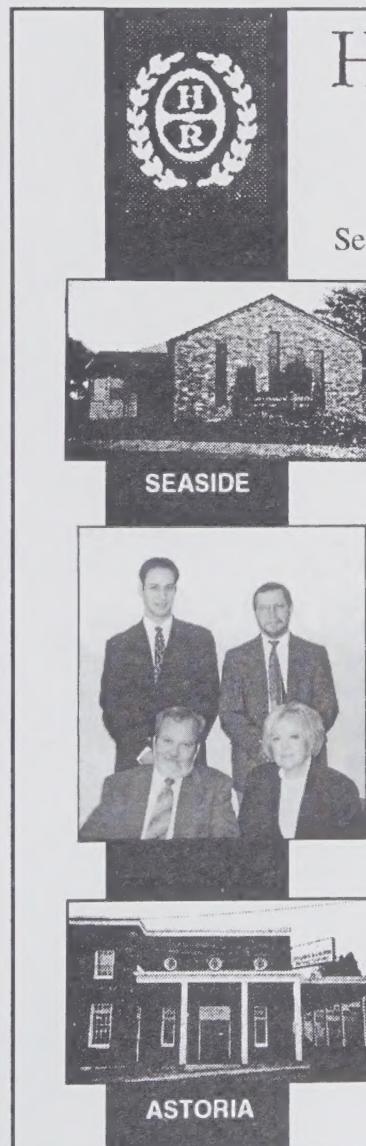
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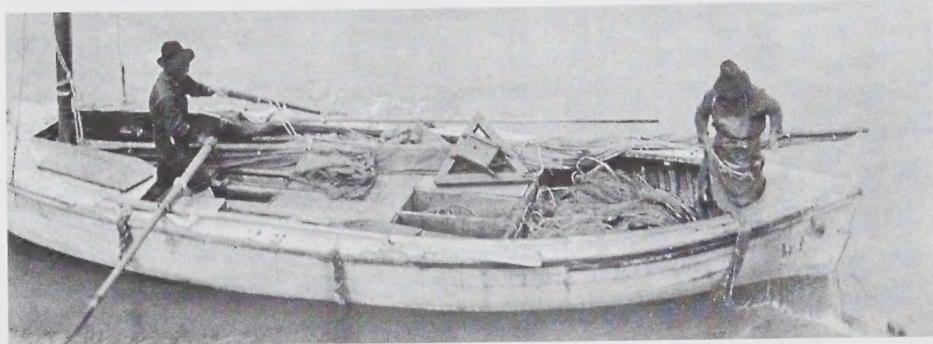
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The three-mast bark "Fink", with a load of canned salmon from Bristol Bay moves up the Columbia River to Astoria with the help of two tugs working on her port side.



Labeling crew in warehouse at Columbia River Packers Association cannery at Astoria in the 1920's.

Native gillnet fishermen on Bristol Bay haul shackle of gear into their cranky and dangerous sailing boat in the 1890's. This perilous rig was to last more than a half-century longer at a heavy cost in human lives.



#### Flagging The Peacock Spit in 1915

Early Columbia River gillnet boat with Liberty engine (converted from sail) shown day fishing off of Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia. North Head shows to the left. Note that jetties had not yet been constructed. The fishermen who fished around Peacock Spit used a buoy on each end of their net with a tall pole and flag on it that could be seen when the net got into the breakers in shallow water. The fishermen laid out their nets below the spit at low water and when the tide turned the net would flood up over the spit. The fisherman would run around the spit and pick up his net on the other side as it came through the spit back into deep water. Large catches of fish were made in this fashion by those who dared.



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